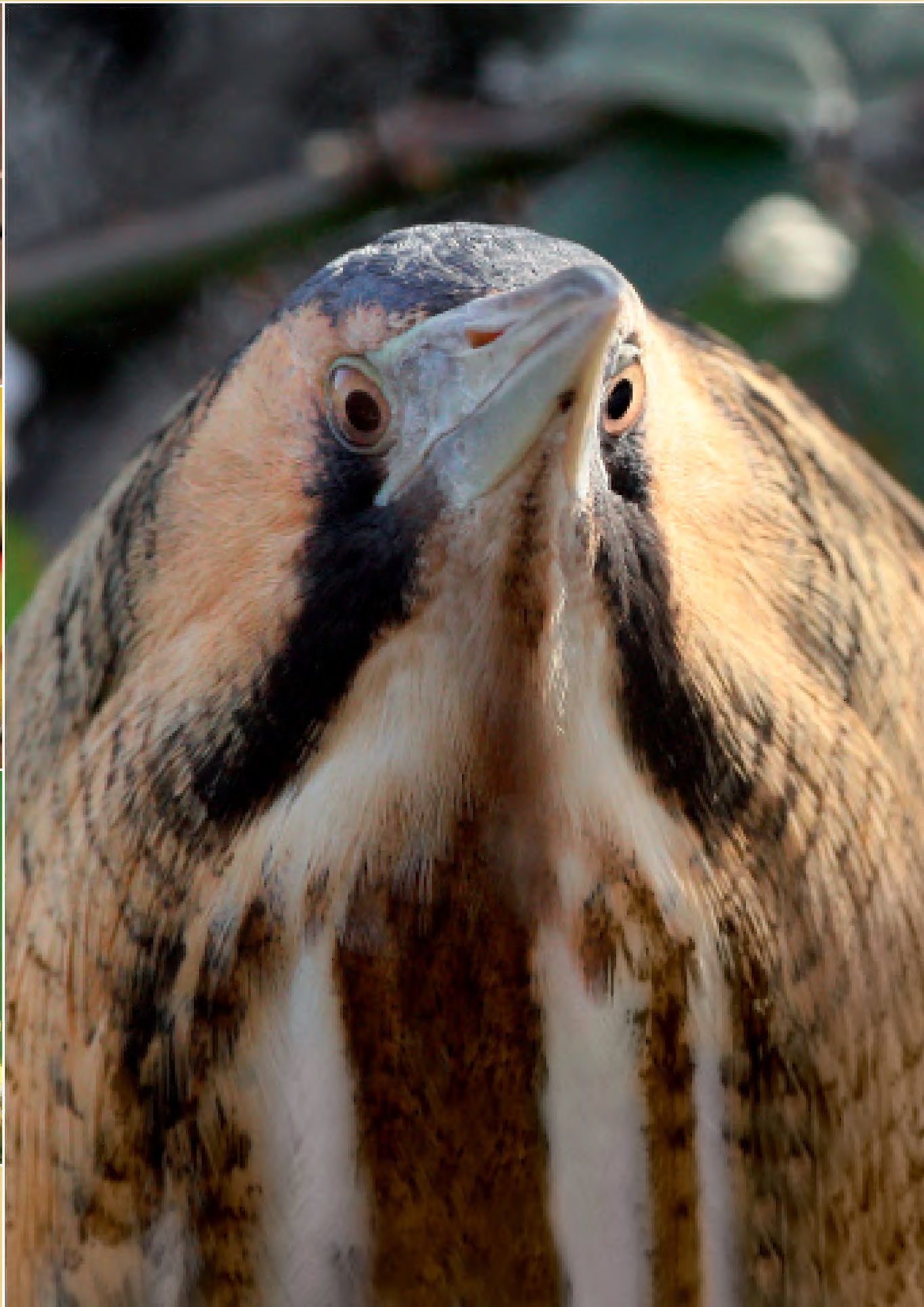


Yorkshire Bird Report

2010



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Yorkshire Bird Report 2010

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Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Yorkshire 2010 Bird Report. Every year we are provided with more and more records, and whilst this can provide logistical problems, the result is an increasingly accurate portrayal of the local avifauna. No fewer than 43 club/local reports were supplied to us, with the information contained within them being based on the observations of over 1500 birders.

During 2010, the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler at Flamborough constituted a Yorkshire 'first', one of 140 records assessed by the County's Adjudication Panel. This represented an appreciable increase in workload compared to the previous year, partly due to the impressive autumn influx of Rough-legged Buzzards. Only 16 records were deemed 'not proven' and all those detailed within this Report have already been accepted by the relevant authority.

Over the last 12 months, the Birds Section has worked ever closer with the Rare Birds Breeding Panel to ensure accurate representation of data sets. It is pleasing to be able to state that the information on rare species breeding populations has a higher degree of accuracy within this Report, than any published in recent times. The Birds Section has also worked closely with staff from various conservation organisations over the last 12 months, including the BTO, Natural England, the RSPB, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, all of which helps increase the accuracy of this publication.

For the first time, a section at the back of the Report details some of the more interesting ringing recoveries and special thanks are due to the BTO for making the information so readily available. In the meantime, we hope everyone enjoys the review of Yorkshire's birds in 2010.

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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



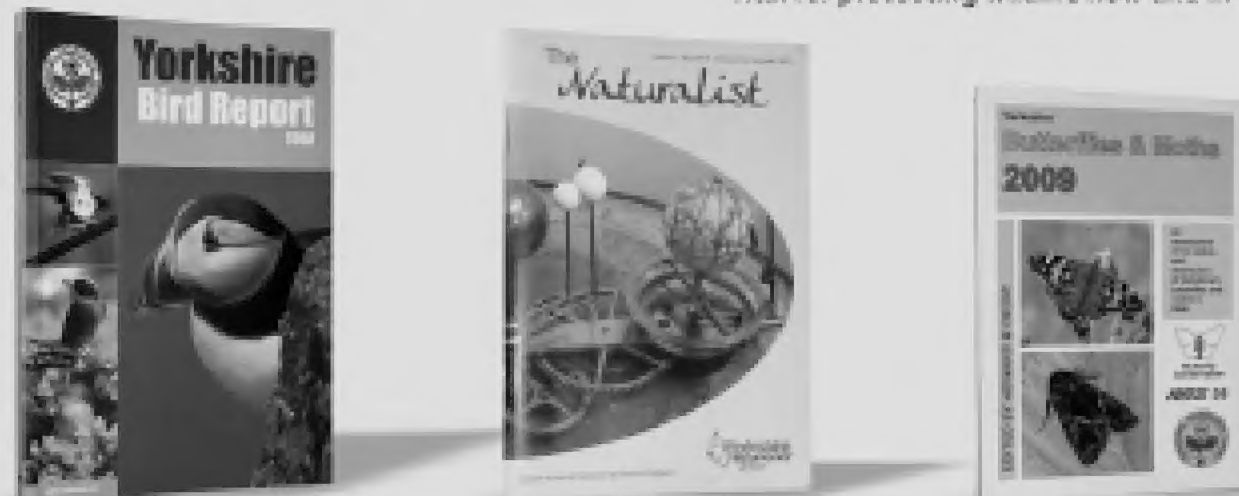
The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union is one of the country's longest established wildlife organisations and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2011

YNU

- Helps members identify and record all wild species found in Yorkshire, including plants, animals, birds, insects and fungi
- Shares knowledge with new members through organising site visits, surveys and running training sessions and talks
- Promotes and encourages the conservation and study of Yorkshire's species and geological features

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- Free copies of *The Naturalist* – three times a year
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- The evidence, and records of wildlife we collect, is vital for protecting wildlife now and in the future



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Download a form from www.ynu.org.uk and return to Hannah Droop at membership@ynu.org.uk or contact the address below.

YNU Membership Secretary,
C/O NEYEDC, St Williams College,
5 College Street, York.
Telephone: 01904 641631



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Left:
Brambling
▶ Steve Race
Waxwing
▶ Glyn Sellors
Wren
▶ Iain Leach

Right:
Bittern
▶ Dave Mansell

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This Report covers all 304 species recorded within the county during 2010. This includes the first ever record of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler that appeared at Flamborough at the start of September. In addition, the Birds Section has decided to admit Ring-necked Parakeet to the County List that consequently stands at 448.

Where applicable, YNU’s Birds Section and the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) have accepted all rare and unusual species. This Report details all birds occurring within the current political boundaries of Yorkshire and Cleveland south of the Tees; for recording purposes, this area is then divided into the five relevant Watsonian vice-counties (VCs 61-65).

The VCs each have their own recorder, with contact details listed previously. A map depicting the recording area covered by this Report is found on the inside back cover. The HerbariaUnited website www.herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/ will attribute any grid reference to a respective VC; information on site grid references are easily obtained from the online Ordnance Survey ‘Get a Map’ facility, or from the site directories on www.birdguides.com.

Description Requirements

It is our aim to present these Reports with complete accuracy, so that those who use them in the future may accept the species accounts without doubt or query. An Adjudication Panel assists the work of the Birds Section by assessing all national and county rarities requiring a description. The Panel consists of the following members: John Beaumont, Ian Court, Mick Cunningham, Geoff Dobbs, Paul Irving, Mike Pilsworth, Graham Speight, Garry Taylor, Craig Thomas, Nick Whitehouse and Steve Worwood. If more than one member of the Panel is unwilling to support a record, it will be classed as ‘not proven’. It must be stressed this doesn’t necessarily mean that the bird has been mis-identified, but more often, that there is not enough detail to be conclusive.

British Birds Rarities Committee

All national rarities must be first described and accepted by BBRC to be included in the Yorkshire Report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will then forward it on immediately, which follows BBRC’s preferred method of record submission; the Birds Section abides by any decision made by BBRC. A list of species for which descriptions are required by BBRC is available at www.bbrc.org.uk.

Yorkshire Rarities

The following list of county rarities requires a description and/or photographic evidence to secure the acceptance needed for publication within this Report.

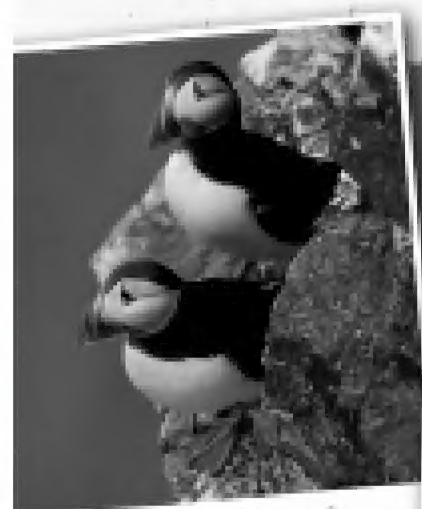
In addition, the Birds Section reserves the right not to publish records of scarce birds which cannot be attributed to a named observer and are unsupported by photographic evidence.

Taiga Bean Goose	European Honey-buzzard	Ring-billed Gull	Dusky Warbler
Tundra Bean Goose	Black Kite	White-winged Black Tern	Woodchat Shrike
[flight only]	White-tailed Eagle	Alpine Swift	Red-billed Chough
Black Brant	Montagu’s Harrier	Short-toed Lark	Arctic Redpoll
American Wigeon	Rough-legged Buzzard	Red-rumped Swallow	Parrot Crossbill
Ferruginous Duck	Golden Eagle	Tawny Pipit	Cirl Bunting
Surf Scoter	Red-footed Falcon	Red-throated Pipit	Rustic Bunting
White-billed Diver	Kentish Plover	Aquatic Warbler	Little Bunting
Wilson’s Storm-petrel	American Golden Plover	Marsh Warbler	
Black-crowned Night	White-rumped Sandpiper	Melodious Warbler	
Heron	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Dartford Warbler	
Cattle Egret	Red-necked Phalarope	Subalpine Warbler	
Great White Egret	[flight only]	Greenish Warbler	
Purple Heron	Caspian Gull	Radde’s Warbler	

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The Panel will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review, including Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff.

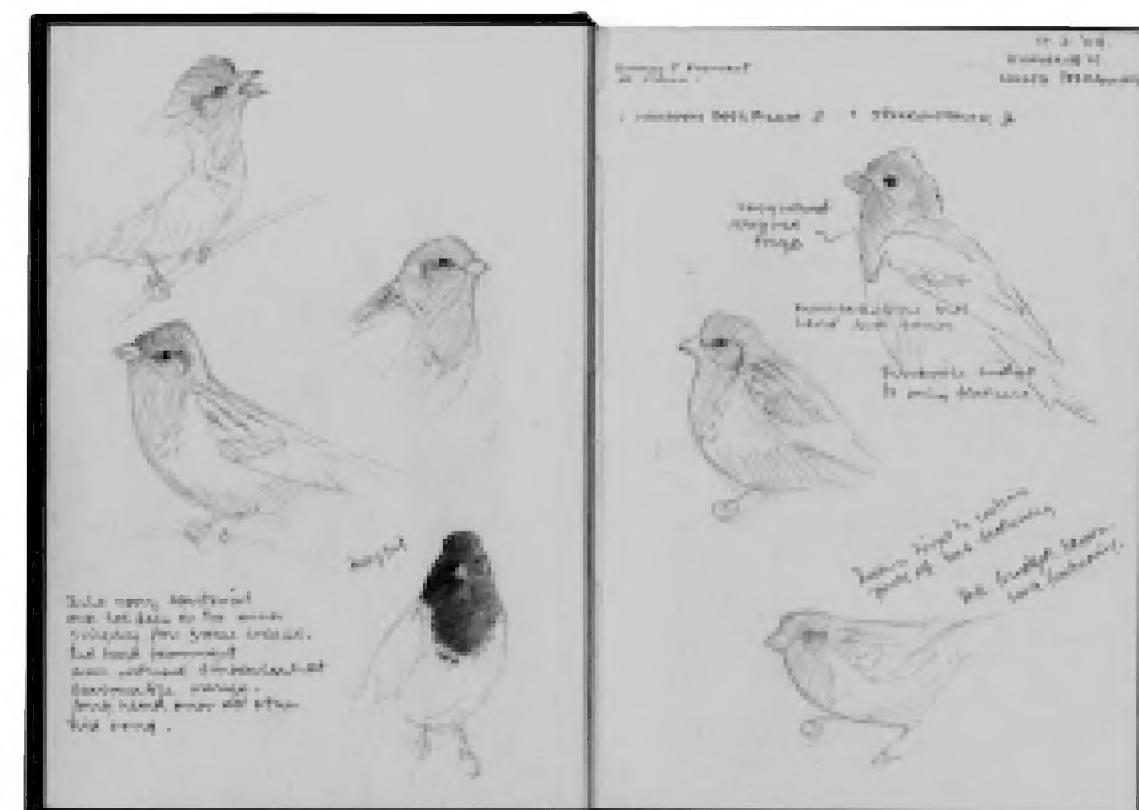
In the cases of closely related species groups, such as American/Pacific Golden Plover and the Pratincole/Dowitcher species, BBRC will not judge records where no specific identification has been reached. Therefore the Adjudication Panel will consider such records for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The Panel is also willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local groups and societies.

Descriptions

The work of the Adjudication Panel can be aided if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison and previous experience of the species. If anyone disagrees with the identification should also be noted. The Birds Section welcomes the electronic submission of records and photographs, with the provision that some detail is supplied about location, first/last dates and the name(s) of the finder(s). Description forms for rarities can be obtained by email from any of the contacts listed on page four.

If the finder/identifier has not submitted the record, but a photograph has been published in a magazine or on the internet, then the magazine/website will be credited.



Notes taken in a field sketch book • Ray Scally

Acknowledgements

A thank you is due to local bird club recorders and individuals for contributing the huge amounts of data upon which this publication so relies.

In addition, the writing team of Phil Bone, Peter Bowman, Keith Clarkson, Mike Denton, Ian Court, Ian Kendall, Jono Leadley, Mark Thomas, John Wint and Steve Worwood deserve particular credit.

Jack Ashton-Booth, Tony Disley, Michael Henry, Jonathan Pomroy, Ray Scally, Richard Tite and Colin Wilkinson require special thanks for their excellent line artwork that further enhances the Report. Gratitude is also due to the many photographers who submitted work for consideration, including Mike Ashforth, Richard Baines, Darren Chapman, Marcus Conway, Kevin Eaves, John Harwood, Iain Leach, Dave Mansell, Rob Mokryj, Steve Race, Glyn Sellors, Gary Shilton, Mark Thomas and Jim Welford. Special thanks to Phil Warren, the North Pennines Black Grouse Recovery Project Officer and the North York Moors Merlin Study Group for supplying detailed information.

Appreciation must also be given to our advertisers, whose contributions have helped finance continued improvements. A big thank you is also due to Chris Gaughan of Designwing, for all his help and assistance over recent months.

Finally, sincere thanks to all who promoted sales of the latest Yorkshire Bird Report, with particular appreciation to staff at: RSPB Bempton Cliffs, Blacktoft Sands, Fairburn Ings & Old Moor; the Wild Bird Café at North Cave Wetlands; and YWT Potteric Carr & Spurn Point.



Black-throated Thrush (Newholm) © Glyn Sellors

The year is best remembered as the one 'when winter returned', with extreme cold snaps in January and November/December, including temperatures dropping to -19 degrees C. This was reflected by species seeking refuge along the coast, highlights including 4100 Skylarks between Cloughton and Scalby and 200 Corn Buntings at Buckton in early January and 186 Woodcock at Filey broke day records in December. For the year lister, both female Ring-necked Duck and drake Ferruginous Duck resident in West Yorkshire provided interest. The first major surprise took the form of a 'slow-burn' in mid January. Images of an unidentified garden thrush on flickr revealed a stunning Black-throated Thrush at Newholm. However, it was three days later before an intrepid birder triggered the year's first major twitch. The north-east continued its monopoly at the end of January, with the identification of an adult Bonaparte's Gull at South Gare, over 30 years since the finder discovered his first on Teeside.

February ushered in milder conditions, but with cold weather further east, an influx of wildfowl was predictable. Bang on cue, a flock of 22 Taiga Bean Geese arrived at Coxwold and provided an identification lesson, albeit one dependent on observers having a decent scope. A Black Brant provided interest around Spurn, but attention then focused on West Yorkshire. An unseasonal Great White Egret visited Bretton Park on 20th February, and three days later, nearby Sands Lane GP, Mirfield entered the birders' conscious, when an adult Ring-billed Gull took up residence.

A 'flying door' toured the county in early April, when an immature White-tailed Eagle hit the coast at Flamborough. Over subsequent days, it headed south and, after settling on the Humber, returned back north to colder climes; bedecked by tags, it was part of Scotland's latest reintroduction scheme. More unusual, was the county's first Black-winged Stilt for 17 years at Nosterfield NR on 25th/26th April that

also made a brief visit to York. The Mediterranean theme continued with an influx of Red-rumped Swallows starting at Flamborough on 29th, with a Tawny Pipit at Grimston the following day somehow escaping the allure of Spurn; two Pectoral Sandpipers at North Cave were unexpected.

May opened with a drake Blue-winged Teal gracing the previously little known Pepper Arden and three Red-rumped Swallows 'flocked' north of Hull. A predominantly southerly airflow was undoubtedly responsible for an Iberian Chiffchaff at Potteric Carr; it proved one of the year's most popular attractions as it set up territory from 11th May, although it would not have won many beauty contests. Two Purple Herons appeared on 15th May, at Patrington Haven and Tophill Low, while a Woodchat at Flamborough the same day fitted the southern theme. Another pulse of warm air on 23rd May produced a Black Stork over Bedale, three Bee-eaters at Flamborough and a Broad-billed Sandpiper at Old Moor. The latter site again stole the headlines days later, when a reeling Savi's Warbler entertained over the course of several days and, thanks to site staff and volunteers, many were able to appreciate its vocal monotone. Another Woodchat made landfall at Filey on 29th May and one of spring's last surprises resulted from a Flamborough seabird census. A diligent check on breeding progress rewarded with the discovery of a Greenish Warbler feeding on the cliff edge on 9th June. Warbler interest then continued when Grimston hosted another Iberian Chiffchaff from 13th June.

During the summer, Black-necked Grebes did well, with 11 pairs nesting at six sites, and although the number of lekking Black Grouse decreased after the winter, their range expanded. Three pairs of Honey Buzzards fledged young, as did a pair of Montagu's Harriers. Whilst the usual pair of Cranes failed to fledge young, there were encouraging signs elsewhere, with adults displaying at two additional locations.

An immature drake King Eider passing Flamborough on 2nd July may have raised the odd eyebrow, but sceptical thoughts were banished when it took up residence off Filey. August featured a procession of waders, starting with an identification conundrum at Blacktoft Sands, which resolved into a moulting adult Semipalmated Sandpiper from 8th August. Although its stay on the Humber was lengthy, it frustrated many by remaining 'out of bounds' at Alkborough. South Gare chipped in with both White-rumped and Broad-billed Sandpipers, while a juvenile White-winged Black Tern proved a photographers dream at Hornsea Mere from 14th August. Spurn attracted its second ever Citrine Wagtail the following day, but all eyes turned to Patrington Haven on 22nd August, when a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper proved its finder had a better search

image than most; he had also located the last at nearby Sammy's Point a few years previous.

Easterly winds dominated September and the month featured several classic falls, amongst which some extreme vagrants made landfall. The opening day produced the county's first ever Eastern Olivaceous Warbler in Old Fall, Flamborough that gave good views to most as it skulked along the hedgerow over subsequent days. This acted as a precursor to a Booted Warbler at Grimston and a Great Snipe at Spurn on 4th September and a headline grabbing Brown Flycatcher at Buckton the following day, only the fourth UK record. A White-winged Black Tern graced Southfield Res on 6th and light south-westerlies on 11th delivered a Western Bonelli's Warbler to Bempton and a Roller to Easington. However, the latter was clearly adverse to prying eyes and remained out of sight behind maximum security at the Gas Terminal. Nearby, Kilnsea attracted a Squacco on 15th September that strangely preferred sitting on a garden patio to the usual reed fringed ditch. The seawatch season proved disappointing, so a 'twitchable' Fea's Petrel was a surprise when it flew past Grimston on 18th; it headed south sufficiently far to be picked up by an eager crowd at Spurn, but clearly didn't fancy Lincolnshire, by promptly doubling back north. The month ended with more easterlies delivering three Little Buntings, together with a showy Rustic at Flamborough from 28th and large numbers of migrants, including 85 Ring Ouzels in the Spurn area and 12 Great Grey Shrikes along the coastal fringe.

October passerines were in short supply, although easterlies from 9th ushered in a Dusky and two Radde's Warblers, as well as a Red-flanked Bluetail and Siberian Stonechat; additional migrants were well represented during the latter fall and included 460 Chiffchaffs in the Spurn area. A northerly blast on 16th triggered a late Fea's Petrel to track back north off Flamborough and a Rose-coloured Starling arrived in Easington. The following day signalled the start of one of the largest recent Rough-legged Buzzard invasions, with no fewer than six appearing on 17th and at least 30 more records through until mid November. However, there were two late passerines left to delight coastal birders. As high pressure established further east, so a Brown Shrike sneaked in and entertained at Flamborough on 7th November, while a Desert Wheatear again illustrated the draw of the coastline north of Scarborough, when it pitched up near Burniston on 19th. All thoughts of late autumn were then quashed by the onset of an exceptionally cold snap. The only notable record then related to a Ring-necked Duck that sought sanctuary on ice-free waters at Nosterfield from 18th December.



YNU's Adjudication Panel or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) has accepted all rare and unusual species that require a description in this Report. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *The British List* (seventh edition, 2007), incorporating the recommendations of the BOU Records Committee 36th Report (*Ibis* 2008: 150, 218-220). The sequence for shanks and gulls has altered, some scientific names have changed, and in particular, Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* has been elevated to full species status. Vernacular as well as international names are now included in *The British List* and these are generally used in this Report.

- A** Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.
- B** Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C** Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.
- C1** *Naturalised introduced species* – species that have occurred only because of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (must breed or be proven wanderers to the county)
- C2** *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
- C3** *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
- C4** *Naturalised feral species* - domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove) / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.
- C5** *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.
- C6** *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. There are no Yorkshire species in this category.
- D** Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals. (See separate section in this Report).

E Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C). (See separate section in this Report).

The British List comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C.

The Yorkshire List comprises species in categories A, B and C, but the rules for including Category C species must be applicable to Yorkshire.

Abbreviations used in the Report

AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
RBBP	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
Res	Reservoir(s)
SF/SW	Sewage Farm/Sewage Works
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Species Totals

Species totals in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last five years, including the current year.

Previous Records

Previous records in the status line refer to the number of accepted records, excluding the current year. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of **BBRC**, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year, but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. On a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and some waders).

Species Status

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire.

Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Fairly common	More than 1000 records per year
Common	More than 10000 records per year
Abundant	More than 50000 records per year

Conservation Status

Status on the list of birds of conservation concern 2002-2007 from the RSPB's review **The Population Status of Birds in the UK** is noted.

Red list = high conservation concern: declining UK population or globally threatened

Amber list = medium conservation concern.

UK BAP Species

In 1995, 26 bird species were identified as being deserving of the highest priority within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), because of either threat on a global scale or population declines of 50% or more in the UK in the preceding 25 years. All but one are UK breeding species, the exception being Aquatic Warbler. In 2006, a new UK BAP priority species list was published, operating at the subspecies level. The current UK BAP species are labelled in the Systematic List.

Breeding Bird Survey Figures

In 2010, 216 widely distributed 1 x 1 km. squares were surveyed for the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey, a small increase from the 211 surveyed in 2009, mostly in the north Pennines. Of these 119 were in North Yorkshire, 37 in West Yorkshre, but only 25 in Humberside that includes a handful of North Lincolnshire squares.

The total number of 1km squares in which each species was recorded is noted on the status line (out of the 216 surveyed). This should be interpreted with care although does give some indication about how widespread each species is.

The population trends for those species with sufficient records to qualify for meaningful analysis of the BBS data are stated for 1995-2009 and 2009-2010, (with comparable figures for England in brackets in each case).

For example:

MALLARD

BBS 118/216:+44% (+31) 1995-2009, -8% (-6) 2009-10

Found in 118 of the 216 surveyed squares. There has been a 44% increase in the number of birds counted in the Yorkshire & Humberside squares from 1995-2009 as compared to a 31% increase in England, but a decrease of 8% from 2009-2010 in the region compared to a 6% decrease nationally.

Short-term changes are not always statistically significant if based from a relatively small numbers of surveys (for example, two survey visits), and some species can be under-recorded on early morning breeding bird surveys.

The totals of the maximum counts recorded in each of the 216 squares provide a useful indication of relative abundance, with the caveat of differences in detectability. A new, but predictable entry to the abundance table was Goldfinch, in at 15th, and Carrion Crow has maintained its steady increase. House Sparrow numbers were also up.

Yorkshire's Top 15	Totals counted	Rank 2010	Rank 2009	Rank 2008	Rank 1994
Woodpigeon	4331	1	1	1	5
Starling	2095	2	4	2	1
Carrion Crow	2076	3	6	7	9
Rook	1968	4	2	5	2
Blackbird	1949	5	3	3	6
Chaffinch	1762	6	5	4	7
House Sparrow	1699	7	8	8	4
Meadow Pipit	1618	8	9	6	8
Jackdaw	1344	9	7	10	14
Swallow	1286	10	10	12	12
Wren	1119	11	12	9	15
Blue Tit	1084	12	14	14	15
Skylark	1077	13	11	11	13
Lapwing	1040	14	13	13	3
Goldfinch	1009	15	16	20	31

WeBS Status

Data has been supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated, and is sometimes combined with counts from other sources. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the **British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU** (webs@bto.org). Where no birds were counted, a zero is entered, and a dash if no count is available.

WeBS Threshold figures

International and GB threshold figures given represent 1% of the relevant total population. The Ramsar Convention has established that a wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterbird.



Systematic List



MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* **AC2**
Uncommon resident breeder and winter visitor in all VCs. BBS 10/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 320: GB threshold 375

The national breeding population has been increasing slowly since the 1980s and this is reflected in wintering numbers. The regional population appears to be stable or increasing slightly; recorded in six more BBS squares this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	37	15	53	45	25	–	10	4	13	2	28	50
Castle Howard	51	41	25	20	26	36	51	49	53	67	81	63
Fairburn Ings	80	100	41	97	138	156	191	306	140	133	80	53
Flasks Lake	5	9	10	7	12	17	30	22	10	8	4	10
Hay-a-Park GP	14	19	6	12	12	26	33	39	42	29	16	36
Hornsea Mere	13	11	21	–	–	–	–	177	–	–	14	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	98	114	123	–	–	–	–	–	74	–	113
North Humber	109	32	67	49	79	–	–	15	–	87	101	13
Nosterfield NR	20	3	3	5	20	16	1	1	4	8	5	4
Old Moor	22	18	27	16	30	55	53	45	24	20	23	32
Pugney’s CP	40	24	29	31	43	45	48	55	40	42	43	52
Pulfin & High Eske	72	58	42	103	80	43	25	46	5	10	15	36
Ripon Race Course	43	18	3	20	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rodley NR	5	2	2	6	4	5	5	4	5	4	11	8
Thrybergh CP	53	57	33	51	43	41	46	34	25	24	8	4
Tophill Low	3	5	11	10	25	47	–	–	–	–	–	–
Welton Waters	30	7	6	56	88	136	–	103	114	112	–	–
Winterset Res	37	43	11	16	21	10	18	18	31	47	53	56

Maximum counts at the start of the year included 70 in the Pulfin & High Eske area, 65 at Ellerton Ings, 61 at Hatfield Moors, 55 on the canal at Parkgate near Rotherham, 53 in the Leventhorpe Hall area, 45 at Arram Carrs, 34 on the river at Otley, 29 on Pocklington Canal near Melbourne and 27 on Low Marishes, Scarborough. In March 40 were at Doncaster Lakeside, whilst maxima in April included 100 at North Duffield Carrs, 46 at Doncaster Lakeside, 30 at Low Marishes and 27 at Potteric Carr. These sites continued to produce high counts throughout the summer, with 40 at Doncaster Lakeside and 43 at Parkgate in May and 50 at the latter site and 26 at Potteric Carr in June.

Breeding pairs were widespread and included seven pairs at Old Moor that fledged 26 young, five pairs at Otley Wetland that only fledged five, six pairs at Potteric Carr that fledged 27 and seven pairs at Winterset that hatched 23 young, but only ten fledged.

In September 26 were present at Otley Wetlands and 25 at Silverwood Lagoon. More sizeable herds were noted during the last three months of the year and in October there were 56 on the canal at Parkgate, 43 at Doncaster Lakeside, 37 at Silverwood Lagoon and 29 at Potteric Carr. In November 61 were present on the canal at Rotherham, with 39 near Swinton Station and December maxima included 60 on the canal at Rotherham, 41 on the river at Otley and 28 at Rother Valley CP.

BEWICK’S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce migrant and winter visitor in declining numbers.
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 200: GB threshold 81

The Eurasian race *bewickii* breeds in the tundra of the Russian high Arctic and winters in the Netherlands and at a few favoured sites in Britain. It is becoming increasingly scarce in the county; potentially due to increasing numbers remaining in continental Europe due to milder winters, coupled with British winterers concentrating at feeding reserves elsewhere.

In January two were at Welwick on 4th, Bolton-on-Deerne on 8th and Wombwell Ings on 11th, with two at Mexborough from 7th January to 22nd February; the latter were thought to be responsible for sightings at nearby Old Moor on 23rd/24th February and 3rd March. Elsewhere, a single accompanied the Whooper Swan herd in the Lower Derwent Valley from January to at least 17th March, last being seen at Bubwith Carrs. The final sighting of spring related to a single with Whoopers at Swillington Ings on 4th April.

Autumn records were sparse and started with 20 south over Howden on 1st November, followed by four adults at Anglers CP on 17th and five paid a brief visit to Pugney’s CP on 29th. In December eight, including six adults, flew north–west over Anglers CP on 3rd and a single flew over Goole on 6th.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnetsnus* **AE**
Amber list: uncommon migrant in increasing numbers and winter visitor Oct – April
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 210: GB threshold 57

Breeds from Iceland east across northern Eurasia, with Britain’s wintering population of mostly Icelandic origin, but some Fennoscandian birds have been recorded in eastern England. A small herd winters in the Lower Derwent Valley, but over half the British population (in excess of 3750), now winter on the Ouse Washes and some of these migrate through the county, which contributes to the increasing numbers being reported.

Monthly Maxima	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arram Carrs	11	11	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	7	7
Beal Carrs	30	–	21	8	–	–	–	–	–	10	39	2
Hatfield Moors	59	58	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	52	–
North Duffield Carrs	167	137	174	14	2	–	–	–	–	60	50	92

In January 11 appeared at Pulfin & High Eske on 17th and 14 flew over North Cave on 24th. In February 20 were near Thorne Moors on 3rd, 20 fed in oilseed rape fields at Birkin on 17th and 30 visited Fairburn Ings on 27th. The number of records increased in March, as birds started to move north, and larger counts included 12 at Anglers CP, 18 over York, 13 flying north over Rother Valley CP and 11 over Sheffield Airport on 3rd. On 6th 24 appeared at Low Marishes near Scarborough, whilst the following day, 50 flew over Terrington near York, 19 headed north over Woodhouse Mill, 15 were at Grimwith Res, with 12 at Gouthwaite Res. On 8th March 21 were at Barden Res, whilst the following day, almost certainly the same group of 37 were tracked as they moved over Orgreave Lakes, Rodley NR, Baildon and Skipton SW, with 26 also present on Snaygill Ings, Skipton. Possibly the same 26 flew over Malham Tarn on 10th, whilst 12 were at Nosterfield NR. On 14th, a herd of 12 visited Pulfin & High Eske and 24 flew west over Asenby, Thirsk on 17th. Additional records towards the end of March included 17 north past Filey and 19 on the Humber at Sunk Island on 22nd, 19 flew west over Swillington Ings on 24th, 26 were at Anglers CP and 12 at Scaling Dam on 26th and finally, 27 flew past Spurn the next day.

The northward movement increased in April, with 72 at Southfield Res, 61 at Nosterfield Quarry (increasing to 69 the next day) and 14 at both Fairburn Ings and Hutton Buscel on 2nd. There were 28 at Swillington Ings on 3rd, increasing to 89 the following day. Three days later, 70 flew north over Clayton Fields and 52 dropped in at Otley Wetlands. Elsewhere, 22 flew north over North Cave on 7th April, 32 were at Fairburn Ings on 10th, on which date 31 visited both Swillington Ings and Wheldrake Ings. By 18th, 19 were on Leventhorpe Flood Meadows and Swillington Ings, with 19 still present at Swillington the next day. The last spring records related to three at Thrybergh CP on 23rd, seven at Scar House Res on 24th April and, finally, in May, a single frequented Broomhill Flash on 4th, with two at Wheldrake Ings on 6th.

The first of the autumn referred to an adult at Fairburn Ings on 5th September, followed by singles at Scaling Dam on 17th, Winterset Res the next day, Edderthorpe Flash on 19th and Castle Howard on 20th. A single at Seamer Carr on 21st September represented the earliest on record for the Scarborough area. In October two were at Castle Howard Lake from 4th, a single visited Thrybergh CP and two returned to North Duffield on 10th and two appeared at Thornton Moor Res on 12th. The next day, four were at Ogden Water, with four at both Eccup Res and Bank Island on 14th, when Spurn also recorded its first, and one appeared at Hornsea Mere the following day.

Some of the larger counts during the second half of the year included 19 over Rombalds Moor, Pugney’s CP and Potteric Carr on 16th October and 11 at Castle Howard on 17th. Between 17th and 24th, 105 were logged passing Spurn and, on the latter date, 60 were at Wheldrake Ings. Eleven visited Swillington Ings and Thorne Moors on 20th, with 11 at Pulfin & High Eske NR on 21st/22nd, 11 at Nosterfield NR on 23rd and at Cod Beck Res on 31st. In November, 19 flew south over Southfield Res and 15 tracked south over Orgreave Res on 1st, with 12 rafting on

the sea off Bempton and 21 past Spurn the following day. Elsewhere, 12 flew over Castle Howard on 3rd and 25 flew over Kingswood, Hull on 6th. There were at least 18 in fields near Candy Farm, Hatfield Moors on 7th, 35 headed past Spurn on 13th, 18 were along the Humber at Sunk Island on 14th, 12 visited Scaling Dam on 16th and 13 were at Hackness Lake on 24th, on which date 15 flew south past Scalby. A count of 12 at Hornsea Mere was the maximum there during the month. By December most had settled into winter quarters, although 15 dropped in at Filey Dams on 3rd/4th, North Cave hosted 14 on 4th, 22 flew north–west over Digley Res on 26th and 11 remained at Scalby Lodge between 8th and 10th. A total of 259 were logged heading south at Spurn between 15th October and 20th November.

Hybrid
A Mute Swan x Whooper hybrid appeared at Beal Carrs on 18th April, where it was observed displaying to an immature Mute Swan.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* **A** 19,42,19,2,72
Amber list: scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant
Several subspecies breed across the northern Palearctic, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters.

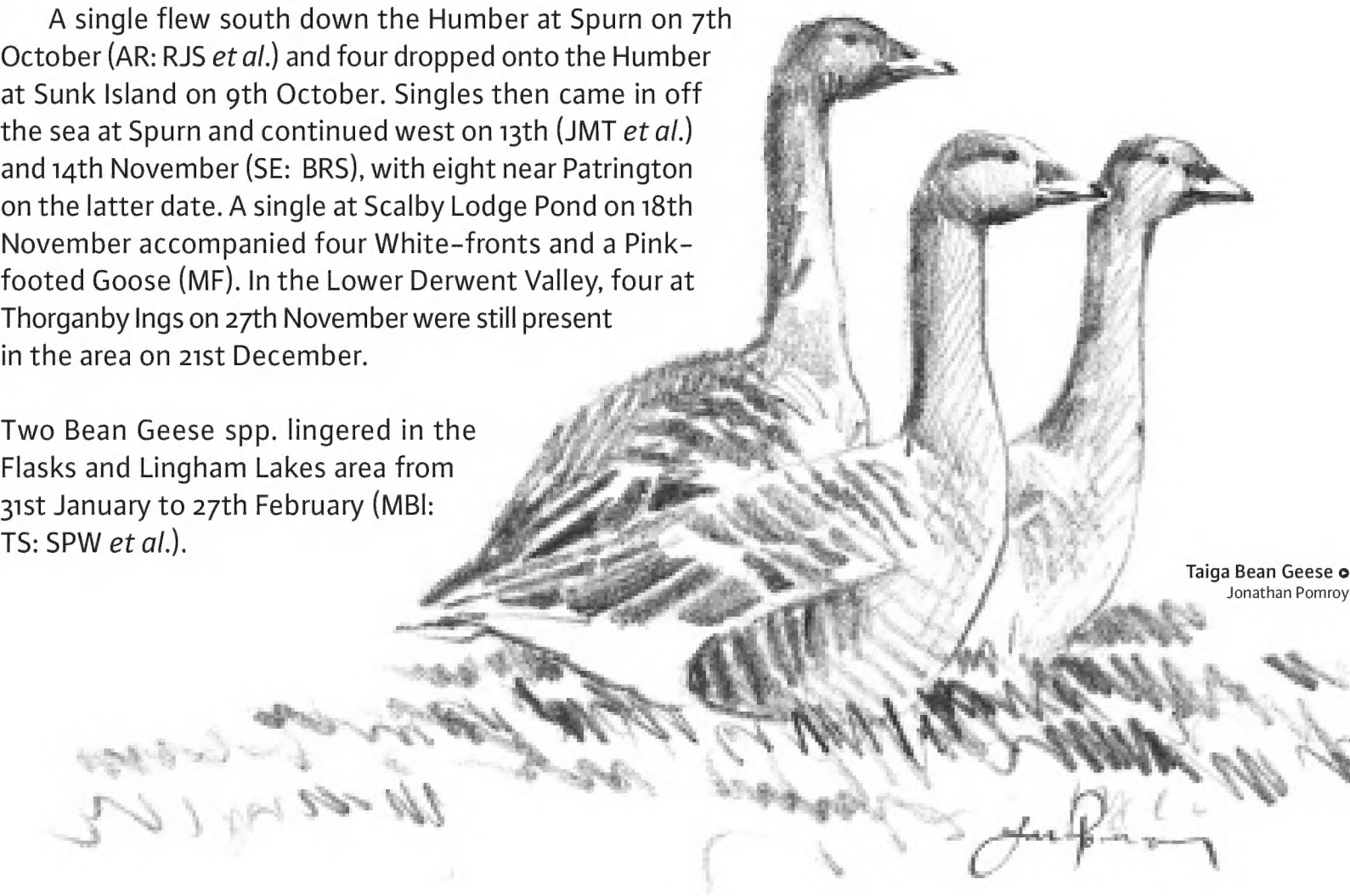
Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* **A**
An impressive flock of 22 lingered at Coxwold from 16th–26th February, having earlier visited Saltholme RSPB (JP *et al.*).
Cold weather presumably forced another further east than usual, when a single stayed at Flamborough on 13th/14th December (PC *et al.*).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* **A**
A welcome increase in sightings, again presumably linked to the harsher weather conditions both here and, more importantly, on the continent.

The first appeared at Nosterfield NR on 2nd January (SPW) and two frequented the Outer Head, Flamborough between 23rd January and 3rd February (AHO: CCT *et al.*). Up to 14 remained in the Lower Derwent Valley from 8th–17th February, initially at North Duffield Carrs on the former date (PCR), and latterly, seven remained at Bubwith Ings on 17th (JLa). Elsewhere, Cayton Carr hosted four alongside six Pink–feet from 14th–16th February (JH *et al.*) and two visited Patrington on 21st February. An especially late record related to four heading north close inshore past Long Nab on 18th May (NWA).

A single flew south down the Humber at Spurn on 7th October (AR: RJS *et al.*) and four dropped onto the Humber at Sunk Island on 9th October. Singles then came in off the sea at Spurn and continued west on 13th (JMT *et al.*) and 14th November (SE: BRS), with eight near Patrington on the latter date. A single at Scalby Lodge Pond on 18th November accompanied four White–fronts and a Pink–footed Goose (MF). In the Lower Derwent Valley, four at Thorganby Ings on 27th November were still present in the area on 21st December.

Two Bean Geese spp. lingered in the Flasks and Lingham Lakes area from 31st January to 27th February (MBI: TS: SPW *et al.*).



Taiga Bean Geese • Jonathan Pomroy

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor Sept – March
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 2400

This species breeds in east Greenland and central Iceland and winters in Britain, and a population also breeds in Svalbard, mostly wintering in the Low Countries. Wintering numbers have been increasing in Britain for the past 25 years, and more passage birds overfly Yorkshire on migration to wintering grounds in south Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	3568	1545	537	30	1	–	–	–	1195	3174	3767	174
Lower Derwent NNR	–	76	1800	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	1200	124

Larger flocks at the beginning of the year included 180 at Eccup Res and 260 between Kilnsea and Easington on New Year’s Day. The following day 200 flew west over Kingswood, with 250 also over Pit House West. A flock of 147 were grounded at Long Nab, whilst another 300 flew south there on 5th January. The next day 200 flew south–west over Canklow. Skeins of 330 flew south over Flixton and 263 went south past Spurn on 7th; southerly movements at the start of January are unusual and presumably a response to the cold weather. The following day, 250 flew north–west over Bretton Park and on 9th, 200 flew over Edderthorpe Flash and 300 flew over Cortonwood. On 12th there was a movement in a north–westerly direction, with 375 over Beal Carrs, 800 over Potteric Carr and 500 over Winterset Res. Elsewhere, 450 flew past Spurn on 17th, 250 went over Silverwood on 21st and 250 headed west over Woodseats, Sheffield on 31st. Most reports involved skeins flying overhead, though up to 600 remained in residence on the edge of Hatfield Moors during the first two months.

In February 280 flew west over Sheffield on 3rd, 225 flew west over Northowram, with 500 over Yeadon Tarn on 7th, 350 flew north–west over Ecclesfield on 13th, followed by 764 over Thornton Moor the next day. On 15th 200 flew over Pugney’s CP, 200 passed over Thrybergh CP, with 230 over Ogden Water. Elsewhere, 216 lingered at Winterset Res from 15th–21st February, with 350 over Great Heck on 16th, 475 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd and on 25th, the same 250 flew over Pugney’s CP and Winterset Res. Passage increased in March, including a large movement on 1st, when 200 passed over Oughtbridge, Treeton Dyke and Blackmoorfoot Res, 350 flew north–west over Silverwood Pit, 500 went north over Grimston, 905 tracked over Thornton Moor and 186 headed north past Long Nab. On 2nd 200 flew north over Kelk and 140 headed north past Filey. Two days later, 170 flew north–west over Thrybergh CP, 250 headed over Silverwood Pit and 600 overflew Skipton SW. Numbers had tailed off by April, with larger counts including 50 over Gargrave on 6th, five at Tophill Low until 9th and six at Dewsbury SW on 21st. In May, two visited Seamer Tip on 2nd, 31 flew north past Long Nab on 5th and 200 flew east over Scalby and 150 tracked over Wreton on 6th. Up to two were also recorded at Swinemoor Common until 7th, High Eske on 9th, Swillington Ings on 15th, Thrybergh CP from 3rd–23rd, Beal Carrs on 19th and Malham Tarn on 20th. Lone singles over–summered at Fairburn Ings until at least mid June and around Hatfield Moors.

The first sighting of the autumn related to a skein of 40 over Boston Spa on 27th August, a relatively early date. There were no further records until 14 flew south past Spurn on 7th September, 30 flew over Ellerton Ings, 745 flew south past Spurn and 70 tracked past Filey on 15th, with 34 at Thorne Moors the following day. Another movement occurred on 17th September when 90 flew over Hull, 46 flew south–east over Malham Tarn, 34 headed south–west over Gaddings Dam, 26 visited Whitton Sands and Hornsea Mere, with 14 over Ainderby Steeple and two north over Winterset Res. The next day 635 flew south–east over Langsett Res, 300 went south over Seamer Tip, 104 flew east over Rother Valley CP, 40 went south over Kelk and many more skeins were noted heading south off coastal watch points, totaling 2600 past Spurn, 159 off Long Nab and 133 off Filey. Two days later, 300 flew south over North Cave, 180 headed south over York on 21st and 169 went east over Scammonden Res on 22nd. Whilst many small skeins were observed heading for wintering grounds at the end of September, some of the larger counts included 280 over Rotherham and 200 east over Meltham GC on 28th and the next day 300 went over Hessle, 250 flew over Snaygill Ings and 210 went north–west over Rotherham. On 30th, 320 flew west over Barden Res and 250 flew north–west over York.

The more significant movements in October included 411 past Filey and 270 east over Scout Dike Res on 7th and two days later, 500 flew west over Pugney’s CP, with 408 over Fairburn Ings. On 12th, 450 flew east over Rother Valley CP, 300 went over Meltham, with 290 over Millhouses, 250 over Aston, 244 over Cayton Carrs and 200 over Mosborough. On 15th October, 350 flew south over North Cave, 350 went south–east over Oldfield, with 200 over Hay–a–Park GP the following day and on 17th, 450 flew over Harden, 307 flew north–west over Dewsbury SW, 250

also flew north–west over Bradley Park GC and 200 passed over Sprotbrough. Late in the month, 564 flew south–east over Redmires Res on 22nd, 300 flew over Anston on 23rd and 2500 were reported at Thorne Moors on 24th. Elsewhere, 380 headed south–east over Owlthorpe on 28th and 400 flew over Tophill Low and 860 headed south past Long Nab on 31st.

At the start of November, 400 flew south–east over Cottonwood on 1st and 604 went over Thornton Moor on 3rd. However, the largest movement of the autumn occurred on 6th November including 1500 over Hatfield Moors, 1350 south–east over Winterset Res, 731 over Thornton Moor, 730 tracked past Filey, with 660 past Spurn, 650 flew over Blacka Moor, 535 over Northowram, 450 over Pugney’s CP, 328 over Elland GP and 300 over Harden and Ulley CP. Mid–month, 250 flew over Ecclesall on 10th and on 13th November, 1070 flew south–west over Harden, 875 went east over Redmires, with 250 over Corton Wood. The next day, 352 went over North Cave, 200 flew over Pugney’s CP on 20th and lastly, 1200 flew over Wheldrake Ings, 600 passed over York and 300 flew over Hull on 27th.

In December 400 stayed between Easington and Kilnsea and 356 headed south past Filey on 3rd, with 308 past there the next day. Up to 200 flew south–east over Brightside, with 260 west over Dinnington on 30th and 360 flew west over Old Moor and 240 went north–west over Thrybergh CP on New Year’s Eve.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce winter visitor and migrant

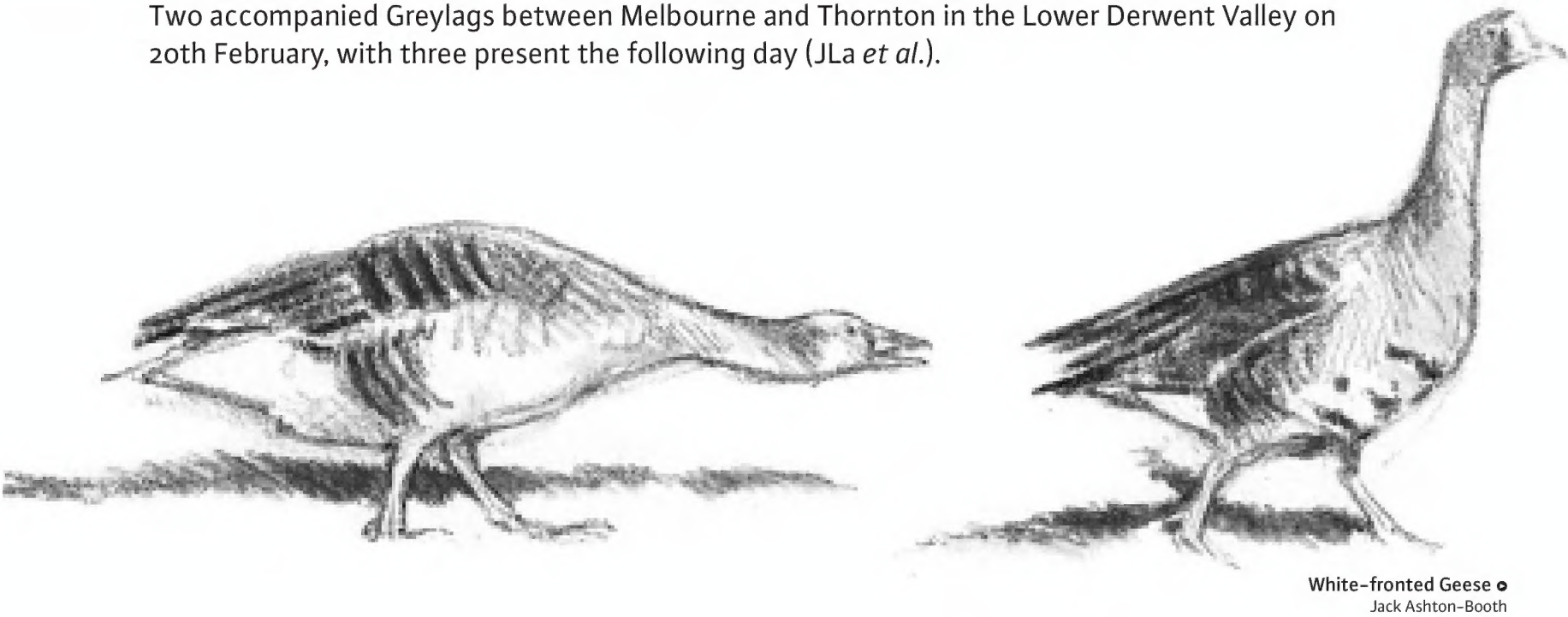
All records are assumed to be of the Russian breeding population *albifrons*, which winters in small numbers in southern England, unless stated otherwise, as the Greenland race *flavirostris* is a rare bird in the county.

Early in the year, up to five accompanied Greylags in the Nosterfield area until 3rd January, 14 were at Ripon RC on 2nd, six remained at Scalby Lodge from 5th–11th January and two were on the Humber at Paull Holme Strays on 9th. Lone singles visited Primrose Valley, Filey from 9th–12th January, Mickletown Ings from 11th–14th, Swillington Ings from 11th–18th, Methley on 12th and Skirlington and Strensall Common on 17th. Elsewhere, eight flew south over Scalby Lodge on 16th, with lone individuals heading west there on 24th and remaining in the Nosterfield area from 23rd–31st. Three dropped onto the Humber between Patrington and Easington on 24th and two remained at Flamborough on 29th–31st. On 31st January, a skein of 16 headed north over Filey, while three appeared at North Duffield Carrs on the same day. The latter site, like others within the Lower Derwent Valley, then hosted varying numbers through until 21st February, with best of 51 on Thornton Ings on 9th February. Additional February records included three in fields at Filey from 3rd–10th, with perhaps the same three at Flamborough on 11th/12th, a single in the Nosterfield NR area on 3rd/4th, seven at West Carlton on 9th, thereafter decreasing to two by the end of the month, and two with Greylags at Tunstall Res on 27th. In March, a single appeared at Hatfield Moors on 3rd, one frequented Wykeham Lakes from 6th–20th and three were at Pugney’s CP on 19th. Finally, a single rested at Flamborough on 18th/19th April.

The first of autumn appeared at Worsbrough Res on 21st September, followed by two at Spurn from 9th–11th October and a single at Flamborough on 15th. In November, five flew north–west over Southfield Res on 5th, four accompanied a Bean Goose at Scalby Lodge on 18th, and perhaps the same four, were then noted heading south past Flamborough the following day and Spurn on 20th. Two lingered at Wheldrake Ings on 21st/22nd November, with five at Flasks Lake on 21st December and two at Eccup Res on 29th.

Anser albifrons flavirostris

Two accompanied Greylags between Melbourne and Thornton in the Lower Derwent Valley on 20th February, with three present the following day (JLa *et al.*).



White-fronted Geese •
Jack Ashton-Booth

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* **AC2C4**
Amber list: fairly common feral breeder and winter visitor. BBS 45/216
The introduced population fell nationally this year, having increased by 199% since 1995 and the county's largely sedentary feral population is probably still expanding. Seven of the top 14 sites of national importance are in the county: in rank order by five-year mean: – Nosterfield NR, Lower Derwent Ings, Tophill Low, Eccup Res, Humber Estuary, Bolton-on-Swale GP and Hornsea Mere. Wintering birds include migrants, but few, if any, are from Iceland or the amber-listed north-west Scotland population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	200	220	39	7	26	–	231	192	280	290	250	190
Blacktoft Sands	45	7	54	420	20	2	230	750	35	300	750	53
Bolton-on-Swale	46	–	20	54	131	104	–	–	–	–	–	–
Castle Howard	72	62	68	15	3	762	58	–	169	–	50	10
Eccup Res	641	–	–	–	–	800	1000	1000	1000	1000	1860	–
Fairburn Ings	4	7	16	15	16	275	91	900	200	200	200	200
Farnham GP	47	89	28	16	36	56	–	16	70	400	30	24
Flasks Lake	363	573	950	200	365	200	1500	880	2150	1400	73	1252
Gouthwaite Res	200	59	91	31	67	313	267	50	50	63	29	–
Hay-a-Park GP	400	2	14	13	178	300	320	240	720	267	20	10
Hornsea Mere	–	115	320	–	–	–	–	419	–	–	167	8
Lingham Lake	1010	2000	100	80	56	569	670	1200	1550	1900	22	127
Lockwood Beck	1	49	0	3	84	95	88	90	0	0	28	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	2300	433	540	–	–	–	–	–	1897	–	1980
North Cave	0	25	85	–	–	–	256	–	800	5	340	12
North Humber	630	418	158	48	80	110	210	80	45	24	354	104
Nosterfield NR	1850	400	60	20	137	46	1985	350	1348	270	797	2100
Old Moor	30	46	70	30	30	56	70	75	12	170	260	35
Pulfin & High Eske	450	400	175	70	125	47	250	414	400	120	400	350
Ripon Race Course	155	88	35	67	–	54	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scaling Dam	440	299	215	190	407	681	484	638	718	824	250	4
Staveley NR	354	350	99	22	20	–	100	850	800	300	300	180
Thorne Moors	100	2	150	31	6	5	2	500	500	1000	6	–
Thorpe Marsh	140	200	200	110	118	110	130	6	110	200	285	2
Tophill Low	470	165	94	75	82	4	–	–	800	64	–	1
Winterset Res	58	65	68	34	44	68	104	60	98	88	83	85



Greylag Goose •
Ray Scally

Maximum counts at the start of the year included 520 at Wykeham Lakes, 450 at both Paull Holme Strays and at Pulfin & High Eske, 300 at Harewood Park and 200 at Monkton Ings. In February, 400 were at Stapleton Manor, 350 at Nicholson's Lagoon, Ripon, 310 at Lindley Wood Res, 290 at Huggin Carr, 250 at Sunk Island, 230 at Denton and 200 at Patrington. During March, Sunk Island hosted 500 and Thrucross Res a maximum of 260.

Post-breeding flocks included 336 at Wykeham Lakes in July, and in August 600 were at Watton NR, 350 at Hatfield Moors and 200 at both Lindley Wood Res and Pepper Arden. In September, 660 were at Wykeham Lakes, 420 at Lindley Wood Res, 420 flew over Middlesbrough on 21st, 250 were present at Potteric Carr, 218 at Allerthorpe and 167 at Edderthorpe Flash. In October, 620 visited Watton NR, 500 were at Pepper Arden, 260 at Wykeham Lakes, 189 at Potteric Carr and 150 at Flamborough, whilst 824 present at Scaling Dam represented a record site count. Maxima in the final two months included 280 at High Eske, 270 at Wykeham Lakes and 180 at Scampston Hall in November and 620 at Wykeham Lakes, 386 at Swillington Ings, 250 at Hatfield Moors, 200 at Potteric Carr and 184 at Slingsby Carr in December.

A single with a ring and neck collar at Scalby Lodge Pond on 22nd/23rd April had been ringed in Southern Sweden in June 2000 and had wintered in south-west Holland in 2007.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* **C2**
Fairly common feral breeder, migrant and winter visitor. BBS 45/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375

This largely sedentary naturalised introduction continues to increase both nationally and locally.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bretton Park	7	130	106	65	99	50	32	56	61	55	64	–
Castle Howard	31	29	42	86	34	315	268	85	17	79	111	113
Edderthorpe Flash	–	–	29	4	4	25	16	40	260	–	130	268
Fairburn Ings	106	178	111	124	117	389	358	800	179	18	56	–
Flasks Lake	265	206	180	175	153	377	123	187	191	168	183	8
Gouthwaite Res	65	30	26	11	19	140	110	80	210	277	172	53
Hay-a-Park GP	35	312	50	30	57	88	150	300	270	540	–	267
Harewood Park	700	680	223	–	174	–	–	–	–	851	412	–
Hellifield Flash												
Hemlington Lake	0	9	6	2	2	0	0	0	279	4	0	1
Hornsea Mere	–	64	–	–	–	–	–	118	–	–	98	–
Ingbirchworth Res	80	–	140	4	–	14	15	381	500	280	360	–
Lingham Lake	200	200	24	18	40	65	38	40	93	80	79	98
Long Preston												
Lower Derwent NNR	–	435	324	321	–	–	–	–	–	1005	–	870
North Humber	1	57	170	94	92	–	38	–	85	18	28	132
Nosterfield NR	110	165	59	32	30	6	23	126	140	14	–	80
Old Moor	484	600	370	186	186	220	270	470	1090	230	437	350
Pugney's CP	300	47	47	13	–	109	–	300	–	200	200	300
Winterset Res	326	269	188	37	44	145	195	372	234	303	282	432

Larger counts during January included 883 at Eccup Res, 400 at Knotford Nook, 325 at Swillington Ings, 300 at Elvington SW, 294 at Wombwell Ings, 260 at Swinsty Res, 204 at Skirlington, 160 at Scalby Lodge, 160 at Otley Wetlands and 150 at Pugney's CP, Fairburn Ings and Bubwith Ings. In February, 260 were at Peasholm Park, Scarborough, with 200 at both Scalby Lodge and Stapleton Manor, and Royd Moor Res hosted 180 in March.

The larger post-breeding gatherings included 300 at Fly Flatts, 220 at Otley Wetlands and 200 on Malham Tarn in July, with 206 at Thrybergh CP, 180 at Harwood Dale and 150 at Filey Dams in August. In September, 279 were on Hemlington Lake, 260 on Edderthorpe Flash, 210 at Hay-a-Park GP and 171 at North Cave. Maxima during October included 264 at Ravensthorpe GP, 200 at Fairburn Ings, 192 on Orgreave Lakes, 184 at Langsett Res, 180 at Sands Lane GP, 170 at Wombwell Ings and 152 at Thrybergh CP. In the last two months 281 were at Scalby Lodge, 260 at Edderthorpe Flash, 240 at Wombwell Ings, 220 at Rother Valley CP, 160 at Wykeham Lakes, 150 still at Thrybergh CP and 150 at Hatfield Moors.

Hybrids

The most common hybrids reported were of Canada x Greylag Goose parentage; one or two frequented Thrybergh CP all year and lone individuals visited Langsett Res on 28th February and Allerthorpe GP on 17th July. Two were at Castle Howard on 7th October, eight at Peasholm Park on 8th November, six at Scalby Lodge on 26th November and one appeared on the lake at York University on 9th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* AC2E

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct – March. Occasional feral breeder

Breeds in east Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, the Baltic and high arctic Russia, with wintering birds in eastern England from Svalbard and possibly further east.

At the start of the year, 57 flew south–west over Swillington Ings on 6th January, five stayed in the Hatfield Moors area from 22nd–26th, and 11 were at Paull Holme Strays on 29th. In February, lone individuals visited Scalby Lodge from 2nd–6th and Farnham GP on 3rd, 19 remained at Wheldrake Ings from 7th–13th, with 31 also at nearby Thornton Ings, eight appeared at Thrybergh CP on 18th, with presumably the same at Old Moor the following day and this party then remained until 1st March. Elsewhere, a single was in the Staveley area between 19th and 22nd January and 18 remained in residence at Paull Home Strays.

The wintering herd at Hornsea Mere, long thought to have been originated entirely from a feral population, also contained at least one wild individual in February – it had been ringed in summer 2009 in Spitzbergen. During March, nine were in the Pulfin & High Eske area, a group of 24 accompanied Brent Geese at Spurn from 5th–15th, on which date 18 also flew south there. Elsewhere, a single lingered at Rimswell from 10th–21st March and 24 were at Skeffling on 12th, declining to 14 by 21st and a single visited Flamborough on 23rd. The final spring records included three heading south past Flamborough on 28th April, six at Flamborough on 16th May and three flying north–west over Spurn on 19th.

In the second half of the year, a skein of 39 flew over Lingham Lake on 25th August. However, far more likely to refer to genuine wild geese were individuals caught up in a movement on 25th September; 51 flew north past South Gare, 33 flew south past Spurn, 12 flew over Filey Dams and three headed north past Flamborough, while 20 overflew Lingham Lake on the same date. On 28th six flew north past Scalby Lodge, with 30 north past South Gare and, two days later, a single dropped in at Farnham GP. In October 70 flew east over Middlesbrough on 5th, two flew south past Spurn on 6th, four accompanied other geese at Thorne Moors on 9th, four flew south–west over Swillington Ings on 10th and 12 flew over Filey Dams the next day. Three flew south past Spurn on 13th October, with six south there the following day. Elsewhere, 18 visited Flasks Lake on 14th, three appeared at Beacon Ponds on 15th, when there was also a single at nearby Spurn.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* A

Dark–bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* A

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon migrant and winter visitor

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2000: GB threshold 981

Breeds in arctic Russia and over the last decade, it winters in declining numbers on the southern North Sea coast; however, the numbers of UK wintering birds increased for the third consecutive year, and numbers on the Humber were the highest ever recorded.

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spurn Point	350	500	996	327	234	145	0	0	157	252	391	450
North Humber	414	537	1118	254	200	0	20	0	1	32	563	45

Most of the higher counts came from the Spurn and Humber areas. Beacon Ponds hosted 620 on 4th March and the final records of the spring included 200 along the Humber near Patrington on 16th May, four at Spurn on 10th June and 20 at Patrington on the late date of 18th July. Away from these core sites, most other counts were in single figures. In January three were at South Gare on 1st, 32 at Flamborough on 3rd, six at Filey on 9th, 55 at Flamborough on 10th, five at Cayton Carrs on 17th, two at South Gare on 22nd, two in Jackson’s Bay on 23rd and ten at Scalby Mills on 25th.

The first record of the autumn related to two at Patrington on 1st September, followed by three at Filey on 3rd, one at Sunk Island on 6th, two south past Spurn on 12th, five at Flamborough on 18th and eight in Jackson’s

Bay on 29th. In November two flew past Marine Drive on 7th, nine were at South Gare on 9th, 20 passed Flamborough on 18th, one was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 23rd and in December, one headed past Marine Drive on 4th. Autumn passage at Spurn totaled 113 heading south between 12th September and 18th November.

Away from the coast, a single dark–bellied juvenile graced Pugney’s CP on 7th October.

Pale–bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* A

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

A small population from Svalbard of around 3350 winters at Lindisfarne and probably accounts for overshooting migrants in Yorkshire, although it is possible that some could come from the East Canadian population, a few of which winter west of the Pennines and some 28,000 in Northern Ireland.

At the start of the year, 22 lingered at Flamborough from 1st–24th January, two lingered at Scalby Lodge Pond from 18th–25th, 19 flew north past Filey on 19th, four were at Whitby and 26 were on the Humber near Patrington on 24th and five visited Marske on 26th. During February, one stayed at Scalby Lodge Pond from 4th–10th, six were at Spurn on 10th, 71 flew past Flamborough on 13th and Spurn then hosted 52 on 27th. In March 36 visited Sammy’s Point on 3rd, 30 at Fraisthorpe on 4th, 13 remained in residence at Barmston from 5th–14th, eight were at Filey on 6th, with 40 at Easington on 9th. Numbers then declined rapidly, with just seven at Spurn on 17th April, up to three there occasionally until 6th June and one flew past Flamborough on 29th May.

Three flying past Flamborough on 3rd September were the first to return, followed by two north past Barmston on 12th, seven past Marine Drive on 17th and the following day, 12 were noted off Marine Drive, five flew past Flamborough and three appeared at Spurn. Later in the month, 18 headed past Cowbar and seven tracked past Flamborough on 26th September. October produced six flying past Long Nab on 16th and seven then headed north–east past Spurn on 26th and these were followed by two at Flamborough on 18th November. December records included eight at Flamborough on 1st, with 47 heading past there on 13th and 22 again passing Flamborough on 14th, 12 were at Beacon Ponds and two at Mappleton on 19th and lastly, 63 flew south past Spurn on 20th, with another 17 there the following day.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* A

The third record for Spurn was located within the Brent Goose flock, north of Long Bank, on 10th February (AAH *et al.*). It subsequently remained in the area until 7th April and was joined by a second individual from 9th to at least 20th March.



Brent Geese
Ray Scally

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* **C1E*** 14,29,19,25,24
Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium. The national population has doubled since 2000/01.

The first remained in the Nosterfield area from 2nd January until 20th February. Subsequently, a single at Southfield Res on 21st January appeared sporadically through until 13th July, and a single visited Costello Park, Hull on 16th February. In March singles appeared at Great Heck on 5th and at Bubwith Ings on 16th and then North Duffield Carrs on 18th, when two dropped in at nearby Wheldrake Ings. The single then joined the aforementioned two at Wheldrake and all three remained from 22nd to 25th March, with up to two staying in the Wheldrake Ings/Bank Island area from 4th April to the end of May. Elsewhere, three appeared at Pugney’s CP and Old Moor on 2nd April, with presumably the same at Otley Wetlands on 3rd and Hay-a-Park GP on 7th April, with one remaining at the latter site until 17th. One of these individuals may have been responsible for sightings at Ripon RC on 15th and 18th April. In May two were at Harewood Park on 16th, increasing to four on 18th and all were still present on 23rd July and two stayed at Heslington East, York University at the end of May. Elsewhere, three were at Staveley NR on 17th June, while a single visited Thorpe Marsh on 30th.

August records included Thorne Moors’ first ever on 7th, with presumably the same at nearby Hatfield Moors from 12th–14th and three remained at Harewood Park on 15th. A single lingered in the Pulfin & High Eske area from 25th August to 19th October and, presumably the same, also visited nearby Tophill Low during August and September. Two visited Ripon RC during September and the following month, singles appeared at Great Heck and also at Spurn on 4th October, with the latter staying until 20th October, and Saltmarshe Delph on 10th October. Finally, a single remained in residence at Harewood Park from 14th October until 19th December.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 11/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3000: GB threshold 782

National BBS figures show a 35% increase since 1995, although a slight decrease this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	5	1	6	9	4	–	1	1	1	20	14	–
Blacktoft Sands	29	31	25	19	18	4	–	–	–	20	25	–
Fairburn Ings	4	22	12	17	20	7	10	2	–	3	2	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	111	159	117	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
North Cave	90	48	50	–	–	–	–	1	–	0	5	75
North Humber	1388	867	1757	785	611	186	2414	4017	1174	1422	1858	475
Old Moor	1	8	7	8	16	14	13	3	–	2	4	–
Potteric Carr	12	20	22	6	8	3	2	13	–	10	10	7
South Tees	24	89	77	147	109	51	87	28	0	19	52	0
Spurn Point	302	300	35	38	25	57	221	200	216	216	244	132
Swillington Ings	23	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	–	2	8	18	13	7	–	–	–	–	–	–

Not surprisingly the higher counts came from the Humber, with 180 off Sunk Island on 1st January, increasing to 700 mid-month, 200 at Welwick Pump Station and 68 at Patrington Outstray. By March, numbers were declining, with 430 off Sunk Island, 50 in the Easington area and 40 at Paull Holme Strays. Away from these key sites, larger counts included 53 at Ellerton Ings and 18 at Lingham Lake in January, 95 frequented Ellerton Ings, 49 were at Lingham Lake and 25 at Smallways during February, with 52 at the latter site in March, declining to 26 there by April. Additional March records included 30 at Marfield NR, with 25 at North Cave and 18 at Nosterfield NR. During May there were 54 at Smallways and 50 in the Nosterfield area. Spring passage was light, with a total of 17 south, 23 west and 21 heading east past Spurn.

Breeding pairs were widespread and included: Broomhill Flash (one pair), Carthick Wood (breeding strongly suspected) Eccup Res (two young), Fairburn Ings (four pairs), Flamborough (two broods), Gouthwaite Res, Hatfield

Moors (breeding confirmed), Lingham Lake, Marfield NR, Nosterfield NR (48 young), Potteric Carr, Pugney’s CP (breeding suspected), Skelton Lake (three broods), Swillington Ings (two broods) and Woodlesford (seven young). In and adjacent the Hull Valley, breeding was confirmed at Kelk (one pair), North Cave (three broods), Pulfin & High Eske (one pair) and Tophill Low (two pairs), with breeding suspected at Bewholme (two pairs), Hornsea Mere (nine juveniles present in August), Paull Holme Strays and Swinemoor Common (two pairs).

The post-breeding increase commenced during July, including counts of 1400 off Sunk Island, increasing to 1800 there in August, then falling away rapidly to leave 380 in September. Inland, maximum counts during July included 38 in the Nosterfield area, 20 at Marfield GP and 28 at Smallways, whilst in August 15 were at both Blackstone Edge Res on 7th and at Pugney’s CP on 20th, with 17 in the Nosterfield area. Autumn passage at Spurn produced 404 heading south, 47 west and 425 east from late June through to the year-end.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* **C1E***
Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country. BBS 2/216

Britain’s largely sedentary feral population has increased. There is some evidence of seasonal migration in late March to May and October/November, but local introductions, especially at Harewood Park, may mostly account for the county’s increasing feral population.

In the east, the stronghold remained the Troutsdale/Hackness Lake area west of Scarborough, although totals were lower, with peaks of 15 at Hilla Green on 15th February and seven at Hackness Lake on 11th March. Away from the core area, additional records near Scarborough included a drake at Seamer Road Mere on 6th February and again there from 12th–18th November, a drake on Cayton Carrs on 2nd October and another at the Flower of May on 22nd November. Immediately to the south, Filey Dams hosted a male on 26th April, a female on 24th August and males on 20th September and 13th/14th October. A drake visited Tophill Low on 13th January and presumably the same appeared at Pulfin & High Eske on 17th and represented the first site record since 1998.

In the Rotherham area, a drake remained at Harthill Res throughout, with another drake in residence at Rother Valley CP until 21st January and a drake at Ulley CP on 18th November represented the first site record. The Sheffield area also maintains a population centred on the Tyzack’s Dam area, where five males and four females were present during spring and a female accompanied young there subsequently. In addition, another female escorted a brood at nearby Millhouses Park. Numbers at Tyzack’s peaked at 24 on 30th August, while nearby Beauchief GC also hosted 24 on 21st November. There were two records from Barnsley, starting with a pair at Winterset on 4th March and a female on More Hall Res on 27th October. Sightings were more frequent within the Huddersfield area, with records from Blackmoorfoot Res, Brighouse, the River Calder at Dewsbury, Elland GP, Fenay Beck, Holmfirth, Ingbirchworth Res, Longwood Res, Ravensthorpe GP and Scammonden Dam. In addition, a pair bred in a nestbox at Healey Mills and two juveniles were subsequently noted on the River Calder there. Further north, near Halifax, additional records were received from Ancor Pit Lock, Bradley Hall Farm, Hebden Bridge, Low Fields, Mytholmroyd and Ripponden Mill Pond.

Near Leeds, breeding was reported from Adel Dam (13 young from two broods, but all were thought to have been predated by a Grey Heron), Eccup Res (two young) and Harewood Park (eight young). At Harewood Park the peak counts related to 35 on 14th March, 15 on 16th May and 32 on 10th October.

Records north of Bradford, one of the County’s strongholds, have declined since a peak in 2007. Strid Woods only hosted a maximum of three adults during the spring/early summer, but successful breeding records elsewhere in Upper Wharfedale included adults with young at Appletreewick, Barden Bridge and Burnsall. However, numbers much improved at Strid Woods after the breeding season, presumably due to a good showing of beech mast upon which the birds feed; 35 present on 10th October, included 14 males and 21 females. Elsewhere, singles appeared at Lindley Wood, Yeadon Tarn, on the canal in Airedale and two in Ilkley. Near Harrogate, three visited Holbeck, Bishop Monkton on 10th February, Thorpe Underwood Lakes hosted a pair on 22nd March and a male dropped in at Beaverdyke Res on 18th April.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 15000: GB threshold 4060

Breeds across northern Europe and Asia, wintering to the south. A small breeding population is found in the Pennines.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	300	163	161	5	–	68	140	239	150	230	239	332
Castle Howard	54	147	41	–	–	–	–	–	28	279	266	52
Eccup Res	335	519	502	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	360
Edderthorpe Flash	–	105	56	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	45	49
Fairburn Ings	150	96	123	–	–	1	–	–	48	58	143	–
Hay-a-Park GP	169	185	73	23	–	–	2	1	90	20	9	280
Hornsea Mere	–	540	166	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	355	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	13689	14803	1780	–	–	–	–	–	2210	–	10200
Malham Tarn	6	40	75	25	0	0	0	0	10	70	60	1
North Humber	2317	1375	839	5	–	–	–	4	11	1033	575	582
Nosterfield NR	879	776	404	190	2	4	1	2	292	393	378	–
Old Moor	500	693	380	100	6	3	6	6	200	330	531	400
Pulfin & High Eske	440	360	400	140	3	2	2	2	2	135	234	200
Pugney's CP	250	131	152	–	0	0	0	2	30	57	100	156
Scalby Mills	970	780	820	–	–	–	–	–	3	89	–	1090
Southfield Res	210	160	115	45	2	1	0	1	8	23	84	275
Tophill Low	2100	877	691	9	7	5	–	–	1	–	–	2
Winterset Res	323	287	177	49	1	1	5	8	262	296	351	260

Some of the higher counts at the start of the year included 400 at Swillington Ings, 220 at Paull Holme Strays, 200 at Bubwith Ings, 197 on Hellifield Flash, 180 at Long Preston, 170 at Bewholme, 150 at Melbourne and 142 at Rother Valley CP. In February, there were 430 at Bolton-on-Swale GP, 200 at Bubwith Ings, Huggin Carr, Sunk Island and Wombwell Ings, with 154 at Spurn. Maxima during March included 403 at Bolton-on-Swale GP, 151 at Wombwell Ings, 142 on Leventhorpe and 140 at Huggin Carr.

Coastal passage was light during the first four months, with the highest day count relating to 125 heading past Spurn on 17th January, 166 were noted passing Flamborough on 6th March, with a total of 414 heading south at Spurn up to 12th April.

A few summered, although breeding was only confirmed at one locality in Wharfedale, where two females and seven young were present at one site in June. The Lower Derwent Valley hosted seven pairs, although no young were raised.

Autumn passage was only marginally improved, with the largest movements occurring in September. Spurn logged 220 on 22nd September, followed by 258 past Spurn and 67 off Long Nab on 24th, 244 heading past Skinningrove and 123 passing Filey on 25th. The following day, 160 flew past Long Nab and 203 tracked past Spurn, while passage peaked with 825 heading past Flamborough on 28th.

Inland, 150 were along the Humber at Sunk Island and 106 at Potteric Carr in September and 100 at Swinemoor Common in October. Numbers increased during November, with 200 at Beacon Ponds, 125 at Harewood Park, 120 at the Flower of May, Lebberston and 113 at Wombwell Ings. In December, snow and icy conditions forced many to move elsewhere; however, 156 were at Swillington Ings, with 120 at Huggin Carr on 26th, whilst 110 at Ingbirchworth Res on the last day of the year was the third largest number ever recorded there.



Wigeon •
Michael Henry

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana* A

2,1,1,0,1

Rare visitor: 21 previous records

Breeds through North America south to the mid-west and winters as far south as Colombia. An annual, but rare visitor to the UK.

A male stayed in residence at the favoured location of Wheldrake Ings between 26th October and 7th November (LJ *et al.*). Perhaps surprisingly, this represented the first record from the Lower Derwent Valley since April 2007.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* AC

Amber list: uncommon resident breeder; winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 4/216

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 171

Has increased nationally and locally for thirty years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	25	9	52	25	9	30	13	22	30	21	40	47
Castle Howard	14	19	13	6	2	–	–	11	35	47	42	–
Catcliffe Flash	4	4	4	12	13	16	10	24	1	2	4	–
Edderthorpe Flash	–	10	48	14	10	138	75	360	140	–	53	1
Fairburn Ings	40	37	29	41	58	112	25	173	300	300	70	
Hay-a-Park GP	56	29	3	4	1	1	2	4	19	27	32	10
Hornsea Mere	–	115	132	–	–	–	–	56	–	–	113	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	231	158	187	–	–	–	–	–	21	–	43
North Humber	38	68	68	15	10	–	–	13	–	2	53	2
North Cave	70	26	15	–	–	40	–	68	–	72	25	0
Nosterfield NR	2	9	14	10	26	27	18	29	43	37	7	–
Old Moor	130	156	171	140	140	130	229	277	210	180	200	90
Potteric Carr	40	40	57	37	32	128	8	72	100	100	20	5
Swillington Ings	–	–	148	72	–	–	103	132	215	443	167	–
Tophill Low	55	38	42	43	40	22	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	27	43	14	18	14	13	12	36	152	206	90	137

Maximum counts at the start of the year included 181 at Welton Waters, 158 at Treeton Dyke, 56 at Thrybergh CP, 49 at Bransholme SW, 40 at Hatfield Moors and 35 at Pugney's CP in January. The following month, 73 were at Thorpe Marsh, 56 at Treeton Dyke, 54 at Bransholme SW, 53 at Welton Waters and 50 at King's Mill, Drifffield. During March/April, there were 68 at Welton Waters, 50 at Thorpe Marsh, 40 still at Hatfield Moors, 30 on Wombwell Ings and 29 on Orgreave Lakes.

Over the summer, breeding was confirmed from Aldwarke SW (two or three broods), Broomhill Ings (11 pairs, 71 young), Bolton Ings (six pairs, 42 young), Edderthorpe Flash (13 broods, 75 young), Fairburn Ings (nine pairs), Firsby Res (eight young), Flasks Lake, the Hatfield Moors area (seven pairs), Lemonroyd (four young), Lower Derwent Valley (at least 20 pairs), North Cave (three pairs), Nosterfield NR, Old Moor (15 broods, 111 young), the River Rother near Orgreave, Potteric Carr, Pugney's CP (one brood), Skelton Lake (one brood), Southfield Res (one brood), Staveley NR, Swillington Ings (13 pairs, 75 young), Thorne Moors (one brood), Thorpe Marsh (one brood), Thrybergh CP (three broods), Tophill Low (one brood), Winterset Res (two broods) and Wombwell Ings (seven pairs, nine young).

Maximum counts in the second half of the year included 57 at Saltmarshe Delph and 30 at Rodley NR in September, increasing to 66 there the following month. Additional October maxima were 130 on Welton Waters, 46 at Thorpe Marsh and 44 on both Mickletown Ings and Beal Carrs. During November there were 77 at Saltmarshe Delph, 51 at Treeton Dyke, 50 at Pugney's CP and 40 at Thrybergh CP. Finally, 157 gathered at Orgreave Lakes, 69 on Bransholme SW, 56 at Rodley NR and 30 at Thrybergh CP in December.

TEAL *Anas crecca* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 5000: GB threshold 1920

Breeds from Iceland east to Siberia, with a small British population. Numbers wintering in the county can fluctuate annually quite dramatically, probably depending on weather conditions on the continent, but the overall trend has been upwards.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	1128	242	123	85	5	21	46	92	1040	460	282	40
Beal Carrs	200	185	113	50	6	–	7	20	39	106	107	51
Castle Howard	182	84	15	4	–	–	–	12	5	16	180	12
Edderthorpe Flash	395	112	12	2	–	8	10	174	446	185	88	80
Fairburn Ings	575	186	55	44	1	8	11	84	210	38	169	–
Gouthwaite Res	69	71	47	33	5	26	4	150	484	814	82	49
Hornsea Mere	–	54	34	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	96	–
Lingham Lake	120	123	48	39	1	1	11	19	117	39	24	299
Lower Derwent NNR	–	4111	6411	2100	–	–	–	–	–	1880	–	2390
North Cave	725	242	98	–	3	3	–	2	–	218	523	212
North Humber	1964	874	332	113	–	46	10	28	125	4002	1507	686
Nosterfield NR	703	300	90	35	12	17	18	68	125	272	117	–
Old Moor	378	300	290	70	12	30	30	180	482	380	320	400
Potteric Carr	460	148	114	4	–	22	11	4	50	391	300	337
Scaling Dam	56	83	25	21	12	8	7	42	69	203	219	78
South Tees	210	238	126	16	0	0	0	26	22	4	363	294
Swillington Ings	347	–	–	–	–	–	–	232	–	476	230	284
Thorne Moors	–	4	70	87	2	60	124	180	300	300	350	–
Tophill Low	166	56	77	18	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	37	20	16	10	0	0	1	11	112	24	35	117

Maxima early on included 400 at Hatfield Moors, 388 at Rother Valley CP, 274 at Eccup Res, 220 at Sunk Island, 210 in Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough and 150 at both Paull Holme Strays and Dewsbury SW in January. The following month numbers remained constant, with 220 at Sunk Island, 200 at Bubwith Ings and 150 at Scalby Lodge Pond.

Breeding is always difficult to prove and during the summer a number of sites held adults. However, breeding was definitely confirmed from seven localities, including Scaling Dam, where two broods of one and nine ducklings were present in May. A female was accompanied by ten ducklings at Beswick in June and, during the same month, a female escorted a brood of four in the Washburn Valley. A female with two ducklings appeared at Beal Carrs in July and broods at Old Moor, Midhope Res and Langsett Res contained four, seven and five ducklings respectively.

During the final half of the year, 491 congregated at Sunk Island in August, followed by 150 at Wombwell Ings in October and 400 there in November. Other maxima during November included 358 at Eccup Res, 240 at Potter Brompton Carr, 206 at Cononley Ings and 169 at Scalby Lodge Pond. Lastly, in December, 360 were at Sunk Island, 180 in Jackson’s Bay and 159 at Rother Valley CP.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* **A** 2,3,5,0,2
Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 65 previous records
Breeds across North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor.

A single appeared at Swinemoor Common on 12th April (GED *et al.*), immediately followed by two males at North Duffield Carrs on 15th, with presumably one of the same visiting Bubwith Ings the following day, and then re-appearing at Wheldrake Ings from 20th–22nd April (CSR *et al.*). Statistically, one of the two drakes within the Lower Derwent Valley is assumed to have been a returning individual from previous years.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **AC**
Amber list: fairly common breeder; common migrant and winter visitor
BBS 121/216: +44% (+31) 1995–2009, –8% (–6) 2009–10
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 3520

There continues to be a long-term decline in winter numbers based on WeBS, possibly due to decreased immigration. The number of released birds may be causing the increases shown in BBS figures since 1996.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	135	240	114	31	44	–	255	336	198	48	28	47
Blacktoft Sands	130	20	41	24	61	68	112	107	345	170	34	28
Castle Howard	222	145	97	72	76	123	621	292	287	159	226	415
Edderthorpe Flash	–	90	73	81	56	165	235	434	420	350	270	402
Fairburn Ings	198	176	83	105	178	324	532	472	385	114	195	80
Gouthwaite Res	682	291	156	91	83	179	274	476	559	637	410	722
Hornsea Mere	185	230	340	–	–	–	–	215	–	–	370	46
Lingham Lake	270	92	26	20	24	22	187	79	80	44	77	179
Lower Derwent NNR	–	1865	425	1800	–	–	–	–	–	3120	–	4350
North Cave	237	70	29	–	–	–	–	–	–	121	280	151
North Humber	1250	623	767	210	195	52	7	322	236	1033	843	881
Nosterfield NR	270	118	34	30	58	68	127	259	334	273	152	–
Old Moor	227	180	180	115	91	180	203	531	285	610	294	390
Potteric Carr	657	520	50	8	1	51	105	180	30	120	250	600
Scaling Dam	250	205	16	31	45	59	52	85	170	230	230	190
Southfield Res	590	460	39	26	150	100	115	240	253	260	–	260
South Tees	36	59	51	13	22	4	24	24	19	41	28	42
Tophill Low	324	69	118	69	69	210	–	–	–	–	–	162
Winterset Res	109	107	58	55	53	61	141	152	140	57	94	250
Yeadon Tarn	428	289	139	130	85	126	–	393	–	–	–	341

Reported in numbers from across the County and flocks in excess of 200 during the first winter period included 388 at Catwick GP, 305 at Pulfin & High Eske, 300 at Hatfield Moors, 300 at Thorne Moors, 284 at Swillington Ings, 225 at Newmiller Dam, 216 at Eccup Res and 200 at Paull Holme Strays.

Post-breeding gatherings included 400 at Broomhill Flash, 310 at Grimwith Res, 250 at both Tophill Low and Semerwater and 200 at Hatfield Moors. In September, 388 congregated at Lindley Wood Res, along the Humber there were 300 at Patrington and 230 at Sunk Island and inland, 211 at Ulley CP. In October, Swillington Ings hosted 304 and Lindley Wood Res a further 221, while November produced 278 on the River Ure at Hawes and 241 at Eccup Res. December maxima included 360 at Pulfin & High Eske and 267 at Rother Valley CP.



Mallard •
Ray Scally

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder, uncommon migrant and winter visitor.
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 279
Nationally, numbers have been fairly stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	187	–	96	3	–	–	–	–	21	1	37	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	278	–	168	–	–	–	–	–	29	–	64
Long Preston	104	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

The largest counts at the start of the year included 104 at Long Preston on 17th January and on the Humber, where 187 were present between Patrington and Easington. Elsewhere in January, there were 46 at Aughton Ings, 21 at Tadcaster and 12 at Bubwith Ings. Away from the Lower Derwent Valley, totals were much lower in February, with just seven at Hellifield Flash and six at Long Preston. The highest March totals related to 96 on the Humber between Patrington and Easington, up to 40 at Skeffling and 17 frequented flood water at Allerston Loft Marishes.

Passage along the coast was light during the first six months, with a pair heading past Filey on 16th January, two south past Spurn on 11th February, two north past Marine Drive (Scarborough) on 14th March and a pair flying past Filey and one south past Marine Drive on 20th March. A male was on the sea off Spurn on 17th April and two flew west past Spurn on 15th May.

A pair bred in the Lower Derwent Valley and raised seven young.
Autumn passage started in July, while August maxima included 30 at Sunk Island and 16 at Pugney’s CP. Coastal movements peaked in September, with seven north past Filey and four north past Marine Drive on 7th, 48 were logged past Spurn between 15th and 23rd, five flew north past Atwick and seven went north past Long Nab on 24th. Elsewhere, 36 flew west over Rother Valley CP on 19th September and there were up to 20 frequenting Blacktoft Sands, 19 at Swillington Ings, 16 at Sunk Island, 14 at Tophill Low and six at Anglers CP on 22nd and another six flew south over Orgreave Lakes on 28th September.

In October 20 visited Fairburn Ings, with 13 at Sunk Island and 11 at Swillington Ings. The majority of higher counts during the final two months came from the Humber, with 37 between Patrington and Easington and 17 at Spurn in November. Six flew south–west over Winterset Res on 18th November, with seven at Swillington Ings in November increasing to 11 in December.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* **A**
Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant March – October

The numbers breeding in the UK tend to fluctuate, with up to 90 pairs estimated to be present nationwide in 2007; it spends the winter in central Africa.

Unseasonally, a male was present at Brandesburton between 17th and 19th January, probably the same male that appeared at Hornsea Mere from 7th February. The first true spring migrant appeared at Seavy Carr, Thornton near York on 9th March, followed by another at Denaby Ings on 16th, four at Wheldrake Ings on 25th, one at Went Ings on 27th and a male at Hornsea Mere on 28th March. Three remained at Newburgh Priory from 2nd–5th April, with additional records from Fairburn Ings on 5th, Blacktoft Sands on 8th, Horbury Wyke on 9th, Pulfin & High Eske on 17th, Swillington Ings on 21st and Farnham GP on 25th April.

Breeding is always difficult to confirm, and most summer records involved lone males. However, there were up to three at Brough Airfield, three males and a female at Tophill Low, a pair at Swillington Ings on 12th June and ever present through the summer at Fairburn Ings. In the Lower Derwent Valley, 11 adults were present during the breeding season, and four pairs probably bred, although no young were subsequently observed.

From July onwards, there were regular reports of up to three at Fairburn Ings, Old Moor, Potteric Carr, Swillington Ings, Tophill Low and Wheldrake Ings.

In September lone individuals were present at Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings on 11th, the following day two frequented both Redmires Res and Staveley NR, with singles at Potteric Carr on 13th, Edderthorpe Flash to 19th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 20th. In October singles appeared at Hornsea Mere on 5th, Tophill Low and Wombwell Ings on 6th, and lastly, a female at Farnham GP on 18th and one at Old Moor until 20th.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* **A**
Extremely rare visitor from North America; 20 previous records
A drake put the lesser known site of Pepper Arden in North Yorkshire on the map, when it took up residence from 2nd–6th May (SLG *et al.*). A typical spring drake, the last appeared at Filey in mid April 2006.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 148
The wintering population appears to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	9	7	33	14	1	15	15	26	23	16	15	–
Catcliffe Flash	–	10	9	2	–	–	–	1	1	–	6	4
Edderthorpe Flash	–	10	23	5	8	6	5	65	170	64	40	–
Fairburn Ings	36	17	31	19	4	20	21	52	113	73	61	–
Hornsea Mere	–	44	45	–	–	–	–	47	–	–	155	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	311	–	612	–	–	–	–	–	19	–	62
North Humber	1	12	4	6	3	13	5	1	8	–	51	–
North Cave	2	10	5	–	–	–	–	7	24	38	23	0
Nosterfield NR	2	6	21	26	16	15	16	11	66	6	5	–
Old Moor	38	37	40	30	30	36	44	46	80	80	76	60
Potteric Carr	20	32	34	3	7	4	–	20	10	32	10	2
Pugney’s CP	20	16	26	7	2	2	4	4	56	69	53	9
South Tees												
Swillington Ings	30	–	61	–	–	–	–	–	203	175	97	–
Tophill Low	30	20	28	8	–	5	–	28	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	5	7	13	10	2	3	2	5	92	170	25	30

Early on there were 16 at Bransholme SW and 15 at both Beal Carrs and Rother Valley CP in January. The following month, there were 20 at Catcliffe Flash and 15 at Edderthorpe Flash.

Yorkshire holds a significant breeding population and breeding was reported from twelve localities: Beswick (two broods of nine and four), Broomhill Flash (36 ducklings), Fairburn Ings (three pairs bred), Flasks Lake (ten young), Hatfield Moors (two pairs), North Cave (seven ducklings), Nosterfield NR (eight pairs hatched 43 ducklings), Old Moor (30 ducklings), Potteric Carr (two pairs), Swillington Ings (two pairs produced 15 young), Thrybergh CP (five ducklings) and at Wombwell Ings (four ducklings). In addition, the Lower Derwent Valley contained a record number of potential breeding adults in April, 268, but numbers dropped as water levels receded. Eventually 11 pairs produced 25 young, with a further 33 probable pairs present. Breeding was also suspected at Brough Airfield, Lovell Hill, Margrove Ponds, Pulfin & High Eske NR and Tophill Low.

There were up to 19 in the Nosterfield area in June, although it was not until August that numbers began to increase, with counts of 65 at Edderthorpe Flash, 52 at Fairburn Ings, 46 at Old Moor and 18 at Hatfield Moors. In October totals from more modest waters included 27 on Smallways, 22 at Beal Carrs, 18 at Wombwell Ings, with 19 at Hatfield Moors and 18 at Wombwell Ings in November and 15 at Treeton Dyke in December.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **AC2E***
Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status.

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections, with a feral population in the Thames Valley of over 300 birds and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

Early in the year, a pair was present at Winterset Res on 28th/29th January, with the male remaining until 30th. The only February record referred to a single at Settrington Lake on 27th. In March one was at Hornsea Mere on 15th, with two at Old Moor on 26th. There were no further records until May, when two visited Flasks Lake on 26th.

During the summer, a male lingered at Tophill Low from 2nd June to 2nd July, two graced Flasks Lake again on 24th June and a single stayed at Swillington Ings from 24th–26th July. There was an increase in records during August, starting with two at Old Moor on 2nd, one at Hornsea Mere from 3rd, increasing to eight there on 13th and 14 from 14th–17th before dropping to 11 by 22nd. Elsewhere, a single appeared at Pulfin & High Eske NR on 19th, 12 juveniles visited Winterset Res on 23rd and a pair briefly appeared at Fairburn Ings on 30th.

Both Hornsea Mere and Winterset Res continued to host good numbers until November, although totals fluctuated wildly. During the final three months 13 remained at Hornsea Mere on 6th October, with final record there of two on 26th November. Up to four remained in residence at Winterset Res until 9th September, with two until 11th October and a single until 6th November. Elsewhere, 11 at Swillington Ings on 1st October represented a record count for the Leeds area and a male appeared briefly at Orgreave Lakes, before moving to Catcliffe Flash on 7th November, on which date another graced Batley Wilton Park.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. **BBS 1/216**
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3500: GB threshold 595

Breeds across northern Eurasia, including eastern Britain, but the declining wintering population was nationally at the second lowest for 40 years, and this pattern was replicated in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	8	5	10	6	5	4	–	–	–	–	12	10
Bolton–on–Swale	44	28	7	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Castle Howard	20	36	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	10
Edderthorpe Flash	–	34	34	–	–	–	2	–	7	–	13	–
Fairburn Ings	57	247	15	41	11	124	81	79	1	30	34	–
Flasks Lake	101	156	134	1	–	–	11	7	57	127	131	136
Hay–a–Park GP	11	5	1	6	–	–	1	1	–	5	5	5
Hornsea Mere	–	340	550	–	–	–	–	355	–	380	–	–
Lower Derwent NNR	–	211	170	8	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	11
North Cave	10	23	8	–	–	4	–	26	–	10	40	1
North Humber	24	195	77	27	32	–	–	108	–	–	33	–
Nosterfield NR	60	2	5	1	2	6	2	1	27	12	–	–
Old Moor	36	35	30	20	9	25	31	17	8	25	28	20
Potteric Carr	10	15	5	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	59	–
Pugney’s CP	300	332	131	0	1	1	18	76	67	127	131	156
Southfield Res	227	251	170	1	1	7	7	2	4	111	254	63
South Tees	42	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	17
Tophill Low NR	86	73	68	16	39	38	–	–	–	–	–	–
Welton Waters	110	120	140	40	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–
Winterset Res	565	236	170	4	2	3	26	65	200	241	330	222

In January, 86 frequented Thrybergh CP, 43 were at St Aidans Lake, 42 on both Burton Riggs and Wykeham Lakes, 40 at Rother Valley CP, 37 at Catwick GP and 30 at Otley Wetlands and February produced 135 at Welton Waters, 51 at Little Kelk GP, 34 at Edderthorpe Flash and 32 at Otley Wetlands. Maxima during March included 68 at Welton Waters, 34 at North Duffield Carrs, 26 on Farnley Res, 24 on Catwick GP and 23 on Mickletown Ings.

During the summer, breeding was proved at Blacktoft Sands, with eight pairs present and two broods of eight observed, although all are thought to have been predated. Elsewhere, four pairs at Bolton Ings hatched 22 ducklings, representing the first confirmed breeding there since 1978. Up to eight pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, three pairs at Faxfleet and eight pairs bred at Potteric Carr, producing 31 young. A pair bred at Saltmarshe Delph and hatched six ducklings, while Swillington Ings hosted 21 pairs that managed to produce 83 young, with another brood of six ducklings present on the river nearby. Two pairs bred at Tophill Low, with four young present in June. Breeding is also suspected to have taken place at Brigham Quarry.

Maximum counts in the second half of the year included 40 at Malham Tarn, 26 at Catcliffe Flash and 21 at Wykeham Lakes in October. During November numbers increased to 70 at Malham Tarn, 63 at Swillington Ings, 30 at Wykeham Lakes and 37 on Orgreave Lakes, with 50 on the River Don at Thrybergh CP in December.



Pochard
Richard Tite

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* **A** 0,1,0,1,0
Rare visitor

This is a migratory species breeding from Poland eastwards to the Caspian Sea, with separate populations in Spain, around the Black Sea and India. A winter bias to most British records indicates post–breeding dispersal and fits a pattern of wintering in Europe.

The first–winter male, present since November 2009, remained at Pugney’s CP until 5th January, before moving to Anglers CP the following day.

There were no further sightings until autumn, when presumed to be the same individual, returned to Anglers CP on 1st October (PM: PS *et al.*). It relocated to nearby Winterset Res, where it remained from 4th–10th October, before moving onto the Calder Wetlands from 12th October to 18th November.

Hybrid
A male Ferruginous x Pochard hybrid stayed at Winterset Res between 18th September and 9th October.

RING–NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* **A** 2,1,0,1,1
Rare visitor

It is a rare, but regular, visitor to the county from North American breeding grounds and winters south to Central America.

The first–year male remained at Pugney’s CP into the New Year and after briefly visiting the River Calder at Horbury on 12th January, it moved to Anglers CP on 24th/25th January. It was then noted sporadically at both Anglers CP and Pugney’s CP until 14th March.

A first–winter female stayed on Flasks Lake from 18th–26th December and represented the fourth record for the Harrogate area (TS: SPW *et al.*).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. **BBS 19/216**
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 12000: GB threshold 901

The breeding and wintering populations appear to be increasing in line with national trends: was found in ten more Breeding Bird Survey squares this year.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	145	79	56	26	11	–	5	10	52	30	37	80
Castle Howard	82	148	110	52	34	21	23	20	26	33	65	58
Fairburn Ings	138	131	64	168	45	225	271	390	86	37	42	–
Farnham GP	91	26	76	52	38	60	–	–	123	166	150	122
Gouthwaite Res	16	10	12	26	18	43	59	47	35	29	27	3
Hay–a–Park GP	32	36	34	–	–	–	–	–	43	63	45	13
Hornsea Mere	33	400	540	–	–	–	–	540	–	–	410	–
Lingham Lake	32	36	34	–	–	–	–	–	43	63	45	13
Lower Derwent NNR	–	322	227	177	–	–	–	–	–	34	–	32
North Humber	109	216	121	146	55	–	–	126		3	86	–
North Cave	98	54	49	–	–	–	–	–	–	19	31	3
Nosterfield NR	18	25	31	19	17	25	64	39	81	39	22	7
Old Moor	107	252	213	261	228	220	279	135	93	90	122	90
Pugney’s CP	204	139	71	48	43	73	102	161	517	247	229	179
Scaling Dam	8	10	22	27	17	63	56	46	35	19	22	1
South Tees	35	26	5	16	7	2	8	9	2	6	18	8
Southfield Res	197	80	20	30	30	20	10	10	13	43	70	120
Tophill Low	186	265	249	207	239	325	–	–	–	–	–	–
Winterset Res	227	108	130	213	55	43	200	456	491	380	241	94

Other high counts during January/February included 498 at Swillington Ings, 355 at Thrybergh CP, 201 at Catwick GP, 184 at Mickletown Ings, 104 at Treeton Dyke, 95 at Hatfield Moors, 95 at Allerton Bywater and 83 on Durkar Sand Quarry. During March, counts included 590 at Swillington Ings, 93 on Edderthorpe Flash and 85 at Catwick GP, with 78 present at Potteric Carr in April.

Successful breeding was widely reported, including from Bolton Ings (12 pairs, 76 young), Broomhill Flash (16 pairs, 97 young), Edderthorpe Flash (eight broods, 48 young), Fairburn Ings (23 pairs), North Cave (six pairs), Old Moor (19 pairs, 155 young), Swillington Ings (55 pairs, 308 young) and Winterset Res (six broods, 33 young).

Maxima during the second half of the year included 300 at Tophill Low and 109 at Eccup Res in July. At Malham Tam, 140 present in October increased to 160 the following month. Additional November records included 160 at Thrybergh CP and 95 at Otley Wetlands, while December produced 300 at Thrybergh CP and 122 at Rodley NR.

Hybrids

A hybrid at Staveley NR on 25th March showed characteristics of Tufted Duck x Pochard; possibly the same appeared at Redcar Tarn in June. A single at Hay–a–Park GP on 3rd April showed some features of a Ring-necked Duck.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* A

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

The birds wintering in Britain of this circumpolar species mostly come from Iceland and Scandinavia east to Siberia, usually favouring marine habitats, but are also occasional inland.

At the start of the year first–winter drakes were present at Elland GP from 1st–4th January and at Winterset Res on 3rd, with a drake also present there on 12th February. Other January records included singles at Thorpe Underwood Lake on 10th, near Tadcaster on 20th, both Hellifield Flash and North Duffield Carrs on 24th and lastly, a female graced Winterset Res on 29th.

The following month, single females visited Ellerton Ings on 1st and Knotford Nook on 11th February and two females remained at Anglers CP from 28th February until 21st March. Ellerton Ings also hosted a female on 4th March. During April, a drake was at Butterley Res on 4th, a female appeared on Broomhill Flash on 8th, with another female at Fairburn Ings from 12th–15th. The final records for the first half of the year related to a drake at Tophill Low on 12th May and two at Filey Dams on 3rd June.

Along the coast, the only records during the first six months involved a single on the Humber at Spurn from 24th–26th January and seven then flew past Spurn the next day.

The first of the autumn were two on Hornsea Mere on 11th August, one of which remained until 15th, and a long–staying drake at Winterset Res from 28th August to 7th November. In September, singles dropped in at Scaling Dam on 8th, 17th and 27th, with two present at Tophill Low on 10th. During October there were three at Swillington Ings on 9th, a female visited Southfield Res on 23rd, another lingered at Scaling Dam from 24th October through to 17th November, with another on Hornsea Mere from 29th October to 13th November. Elsewhere, four were on the Humber at Sunk Island on 7th November, a single stayed at Redcar Tarn from 22nd–25th, a female remained in residence at Elland GP from 27th November to 5th December and a male graced Eccup Res on the latter date.

Along the coast, the first of the autumn flew past Flamborough on 16th July, one frequented the canal at Spurn from 17th–31st July, one headed north past Spurn on 21st August, with another offshore at Flamborough on 30th. During September, a single sheltered in Filey Bay on 21st, another flew past Flamborough on 24th, with two past there on 10th October. November saw large numbers passing coastal watch–points, including 37 heading past Spurn on 8th, two flying past Flamborough on 9th, 48 passing Spurn on 17th, with 20 tracking past there the following day. Finally, in December, six flew past Flamborough on 1st, whilst the next day, 61 headed past Flamborough and 33 went north at Spurn. In total, 108 flew south and 36 north between 6th September and 2nd December at Spurn.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* A

Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and visitor; rare inland

This marine species breeds at Coquet Island, Northumberland northwards, but some non–breeding birds summer on the coast, and others winter.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	15	40	20	25	56	15	9	–	–	12	–	366
Flamborough	28	13	11	3	15	17	9	19	32	18	175	66
Long Nab	–	–	–	–	5	0	4	4	21	5	103	–
Spurn	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	77	–	152	43
South Tees	9	5	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	18

In addition to the totals detailed in the table, counts from additional sites were confined to single figures early on, including six flying north past Marine Drive on 1st January and five in the harbour at Whitby on 31st January.

Autumn passage started in August, with a single on the River Humber off Paull Holme Strays on 14th. Records increased during October, with a noteworthy record of 13 present off Sunk Island on 25th October. Passage peaked in November, with 77 north past Spurn on 1st and seven heading past Flamborough on 7th. A northerly movement took place on 8th, when 66 flew north past Spurn and the next day 61 flew past Spurn, 17 flew past Marine Drive and 24 at Long Nab. On 10th November, 152 were logged north past Spurn and 103 tracked past Long Nab. Later in the month, 90 headed north past Spurn on 22nd, when ten were noted passing Long Nab. The only significant movement during December took place on 2nd, when 43 flew north past Spurn. The colder conditions were undoubtedly responsible for the much larger numbers around Filey Brigg over the last two months, including 336 present on 26th December.

Unusually, a single took up residence at Semerwater in the Yorkshire Dales from 14th–21st May.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* A

0,0,1,1,1

Vagrant; four previous records

A circumpolar breeder on Arctic coasts, wintering south of breeding range; the nearest wintering grounds are in Iceland and northern Scandinavia.

Flamborough’s third record in as many years appeared on 2nd July, when a first–summer male was ably identified heading north (PC: BR). Relocated in Filey Bay three days later, it continued to show well until flushed by a small boat on 24th July (IBi *et al.*). The same individual then relocated to Norfolk, where it appeared offshore of Sheringham and West Runton on 27th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **A**
Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and northern Norway; and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers.

At the start of the year, three were off Cromer Point on 11th January, one flew north past Spurn on 29th, two were noted past Flamborough on 31st January, with up to three regularly on the sea off Filey until 28th February. The following month, one was off Barmston on 5th March and, later, one headed south past Spurn on 26th May.

The first returned on 24th September, when a single flew past Long Nab, and two headed past Flamborough four days later. In October, three flew north at both Filey and Long Nab and one tracked south at Spurn on 16th. Up to two were then regularly recorded at Filey throughout November. Additional November records included four off Flamborough on 7th, with a single past there on 29th, two off South Gare on 9th and two flew past Spurn on 18th. The last coastal records related to a single heading past Flamborough on 11th December, two similarly there on 12th, followed by a duo in Filey Bay on 14th December.

Inland, the female present at Wykeham Lakes since November 2009 remained until 5th May. In the second half, an adult male graced Swillington Ings on 9th October, singles stayed at Pulfin & High Eske from 20th–22nd October and Scaling Dam on 24th, where it was joined by a second individual from 26th, and both subsequently remained until 20th November. Elsewhere, possibly the same returning female stayed at Wykeham Lakes from 30th October to 4th December, with another female lingering at Pugney’s CP from 14th November to 19th December. Finally, singles visited Tophill Low on 23rd November and Blacktoft Sands on 10th December.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: a fairly common coastal visitor, scarcer inland

Mostly winters offshore, with birds also seen moving to and from the North Norfolk coast, where nearly 5000 regularly winter.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	120	–	80	20	15	115	40	120	155	140	320	127
Flamborough	345	200	89	32	87	312	380	305	357	150	326	36
Long Nab	10	–	–	–	65	33	158	299	200	36	228	42
Marine Drive	17	14	–	24	–	–	60	12	70	–	134	67
Spurn	97	60	100	134	142	250	533	368	359	125	367	64

In addition to the totals detailed in the table, smaller counts in the first half of the year included 19 off Skinningrove and 11 off Redcar during February. Numbers began to increase during mid–summer, with 18 south past Skinningrove on 18th June and 38 north past there ten days later. Totals recorded from coastal watch–points peaked in July, with a large movement occurring on 20th, when 559 were logged heading past Skinningrove, 1165 flew past Scalby Mills and 533 tracked past Spurn. The following day, a further 348 flew past Spurn and the Flamborough seawatch team recorded 380 tracking past the Headland on 25th July. The next month, 700 flew north at Skinningrove on 7th August, while 357 flew past Flamborough on 28th September. In December, up to 56 remained in residence on the sea off Redcar.

Records came from various sites along the Humber during the year, starting with two off Sunk Island on 15th February, with 41 present there during July, 43 in August, declining to just two by September, five in October and 13 in November. Elsewhere, 15 flew past Brough Haven on 26th July and a male graced Paull Holme Strays on 20th August.

Inland, the year started with a female at Winterset Res on 3rd January, followed by two males at the same location on 26th January. In April lone females appeared on Hornsea Mere and Watton NR on 4th, with a male at Warley Moor Res on 10th/11th.

There were no further reports until the middle of summer, when two males were located at Eccup Res on 19th June, followed by a single at Nosterfield NR on 17th July. Later in July, there were five males at Broadstones Res on 20th and, the following day, six appeared at Blackmoorfoot Res and a single female at Scout Dike Res. A female dropped in at Blackmoorfoot Res on 26th, with three present there the next day, when two males roosted on Winterburn Res. Sightings increased during August, with a single at Whiteholme Res on 2nd, a lone male at Eccup Res on 3rd, five at Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th, three males on Orgreave Lakes on 13th, a male

frequented Hornsea Mere from 14th–22nd and lone males appeared on Rivelin Dam, Royd Moor Res and Winterset Res on 14th. The latter site hosted a male on 16th August, with two on Orgreave Lakes on 17th.

During September, Pugney’s CP hosted a single on 14th, with lone males at Blackmoorfoot Res on 26th and Swillington Ings on 29th. Two males were found at Hornsea Mere on 11th October and seven appeared at Winterset Res the following day. The final records for the year included singles at Blackmoorfoot Res and Pugney’s CP and two at Winterset Res on 9th November, a female at Welton Waters on 13th and a single at Orgreave Lakes during 19th/20th.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* **A**
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. In common with other coastal passage birds, there may be some duplication in records.

In January, up to six lingered off Filey, with two then noted regularly until 23rd April. Other January records included three off Flamborough on 5th, with further sporadic sightings there until nine on 30th, and two flew south past Spurn on 8th January, with singles on 13th and 25th. In February, singles flew past Flamborough on 6th, Spurn on 7th and Flamborough on 11th, while March produced a single south past Spurn on 14th. April records included four flying north at Spurn on 5th, two were off Flamborough on 17th and two headed past Spurn on both 19th and 21st April. The final spring records, all in May, included two off Flamborough and Long Nab on 2nd and, lastly, three tracked north past Spurn on 9th.

The first record of the autumn related to a single passing Flamborough on 10th July, followed by two there on 23rd and two off Filey on 29th. In August, a single flew past Spurn on 17th, three were off Long Nab on 30th, with another at Filey the next day. Up to four were regularly recorded from coastal watch–points during September, with some higher counts in October, including six north past Spurn on 12th, seven off Flamborough on 17th, eight off Barmston the following day and eight off Flamborough on 27th. In the last two months of the year, Marske hosted six, Flamborough five and Filey a maximum of ten. In total, the autumn at Spurn produced 21 south and 11 north between 17th September and 29th December.

The only inland records involved a single that stayed briefly before heading west at Southfield Res on 15th January and a single in residence on Hornsea Mere from 11th–13th October.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor, a few over–summer. BBS 1/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 11500: GB threshold 249

The Humber Estuary is now the only nationally important wintering site within the region for a species that breeds from Scotland east to Siberia. Nationally, numbers have fallen since the mid–90s, and totals at Hornsea Mere were the lowest for some time and well below the five–year mean of 282 and the GB threshold figure.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Castle Howard	14	21	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	19	15
Fairburn Ings	46	93	17	6	3	1	–	–	–	1	1	–
Farnham GP	17	15	10	3	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	15
Gouthwaite Res	21	26	28	14	–	–	–	–	–	3	17	14
Hay–a–Park GP	8	22	14	20	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	14
Hornsea Mere	–	115	230	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	88	6
Malham Tarn	2	4	12	18	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0
North Humber	219	45	142	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	104	–
Nosterfield NR	13	24	14	19	–	1	–	–	–	7	6	–
Old Moor	11	10	14	4	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	14
Pugney’s CP	46	35	29	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	19	30
Pulfin & High Eske	11	20	10	5	1	1	1	1	1	6	13	20
Scaling Dam	6	11	13	11	2	0	0	0	3	2	9	2
South Tees	80	39	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	104
Swillington Ings	20	12	29	2	1	1	1	1	–	–	15	28
Tophill Low	68	89	61	19	–	1	–	1	–	8	–	11
Winterset Res	51	71	70	66	2	0	0	0	0	17	62	32

Freezing conditions forced many to search for open water away from the usual localities and, as a consequence, counts were much reduced. For example, Hornsea Mere only hosted six during the December WeBS count, as compared to 136 present 12 months earlier.

Some were forced onto rivers such as the Calder, where there were 37 near Horbury Wyke on 12th January and 13 sought ice-free feeding on the river at Healey Mills. Elsewhere, January maxima included 11 at both Bolton-on-Swale GP and Durkar Sand Quarry, 19 on Welton Waters, 20 at Rother Valley CP, 27 at Knotford Nook and 40 on Millfield Lagoon. In February, there were 44 at Fewston Res, 15 at Pulfin & High Eske and ten at Welton Waters, while Otley Wetlands hosted 35 on 21st March and Rother Valley CP attracted 27 on 8th April.

Over-summering singles were recorded at Pulfin & High Eske, nearby Tophill Low and Swillington Ings. Maxima over the last two months included 33 on the Humber off Sunk Island, 17 at Eccup Res, 12 at Anglers CP in November and 27 in the Horbury Wyke area, 18 at Knotford Nook, 15 at Eccup Res and 12 at both Dewsbury and Otley Wetlands during December.

Coastal passage during the first half of the year was light, with odd singles passing offshore. Some of the higher counts included three flying north past Marine Drive on 1st January and four north past Spurn two days later and three again passing Marine Drive on 6th March.

The first record of the autumn related to two north past Long Nab on 27th September, followed by two heading south past Spurn on 29th. During October, 11 flew past Long Nab on 16th and 11 were off Filey on 25th. Most counts throughout November and December were in single figures, with passage peaking between 7th–9th November, starting with 11 heading past Marine Drive on 7th, 34 flying past Spurn on 8th, whilst the following day, passage included 18 at Long Nab, 45 at Filey and 39 at Spurn.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* A
Amber list: scarce winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 4

Breeds in north Europe and winters further south. Numbers wintering in the UK are declining and counts in 2006/07 were 50% lower than the previous winter.

In the Hull Valley, up to four remained in the Tophill Low/Watton NR area until 28th March, with a single still present on 11th April. The overwintering drake at Pugney’s CP remained until 6th April, occasionally visiting nearby Durkar Sand Quarry, Horbury SW and Millfield Lagoon. Three were present at Swillington Ings on 2nd January, with one staying from 11th February to 14th March. The usual drake appeared at Winterset Res on 18th and 24th January, with two redheads there from 16th February to 1st March. Up to two frequented Fairburn Ings from 18th January until late March, with three present on 30th January and 25th March. Elsewhere, singles were at Coatham Marsh from 10th–17th January, while another at Filey on 12th represented the first local record since 2003. Additional January records included one at Beal Carrs on 17th, four at Eccup Res on 20th and two present in the Brandesburton/Catwick area from 28th January to 12th February.

In the east, a redhead stayed at Wykeham Lakes from 7th February until 21st March, three redheads lingered on Hornsea Mere from 9th February until 15th March and a drake remained in residence at Welton Waters from 14th February until 16th March.

The first redhead returned to Flasks Lake on the early date of 22nd October. There were no further records until November, when a redhead was present at Seamer Carr from 13th–23rd, quickly followed by singles at Watton NR on 15th, Blackmoorfoot Res on 18th and Fairburn Ings on 21st, with two then present there into December. Three arrived at Tophill Low on 21st November, with six present two days later, but none remained in the Hull Valley after the last single braved the icy conditions at Pulfin & High Eske on 28th November.

A redhead was found on the only remaining patch of open water at Otley Wetlands on 29th November and three stayed at Swillington Ings from 20th November to the year-end. Further west, a first-winter male at Pugney’s CP from 28th November, also visited nearby Horbury SW from 3rd–22nd December, before relocating to Winterset Res on 28th, where it subsequently remained into the New Year.

Freezing conditions in December forced formerly settled individuals to find open water elsewhere and resulted in a single at Hatfield Moors on 4th, a redhead that flew east over North Cave on 11th, a lone individual at Wheldrake Ings on 21st and another at Hay-a-Park GP from 18th–26th, when it relocated to Farnham GP on 27th/28th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* A
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor
Nationally has declined since the mid-1990s.

Monthly Maxima

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	17	21	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	47	18
Flamborough	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	6	1	7	6	3
Spurn	1	0	0	2	5	4	8	–	–	8	8	–

There were only a few coastal records early on, with three off Marske on 26th January and one south at Spurn on 28th. In February, an aberrant drake with all-white primaries visited Scalby Mills on 6th. During April, a single flew past Spurn on 16th, with two there three days later. In May four were tracked heading north past Filey, then Long Nab, on 2nd and five flew north past Spurn on 7th. There were no further records until June, when four flew south past Spurn on 5th, four were recorded passing Flamborough on 20th and eight headed past Spurn on 27th.

Up to four were occasionally recorded passing coastal watch-points from August until the year-end, including singles heading north past Long Nab on 15th August and 26th September. Consistent coverage at Spurn logged 75 south and 18 north between 21st June and 4th December, with maxima of eight on 21st October, 8th and 18th November. Elsewhere, seven were on the Humber off Sunk Island on 24th October and one dropped onto the Canal Scrape at Spurn on 29th. November’s more notable records included nine heading past Marine Drive on 7th, two males at Hornsea Mere on 26th and six flying past Filey on 28th. Finally, two flew past Long Nab on 14th December and a single appeared in Scarborough Harbour on 20th December.

Away from the coast, the resident duo at Pugney’s CP remained until 19th March and the long-staying immature male at Winterset Res stayed until 7th April, being joined by a female from 16th January until 17th February and, presumably the same, again from 17th–20th March. Along the coastal fringe, a female dropped onto Seamer Road Mere on 18th January. In February, a pair appeared at Meltham Mills Res on 2nd, when one was also on Yeadon Tarn and five sheltered on the River Tees by the transporter bridge on 21st. During April, a single dropped onto Southfield Res on 2nd/3rd and again on 12th, with a drake at Ingbirchworth Res on 4th.

During the second half of the year a single remained at Beal Carrs from 27th July until 3rd August. September records included an eclipse drake at Blackmoorfoot Res on 23rd and six there on 29th. Elsewhere, a lone individual was on the River Humber off Sunk Island on 25th and the now adult male returned to Winterset Res from 29th September until 2nd December, before freezing conditions forced it to relocate to nearby Pugney’s CP. In October one resided at Malham Tarn from 2nd–10th and represented the first site record since April 1991. A redhead flew west over Anglers CP on 5th October, two were at Thrybergh CP from 10th–12th, a pair was at Bolton Abbey on 20th, when a single appeared at Fairburn Ings, with another at Eccup Res on 26th. The next month, two were at Ingbirchworth Res on 9th November, a female lingered at Blackmoorfoot Res from 18th–24th and a drake at Pugney’s CP on 30th November was joined by a second drake and a female at the start of December. Finally, a redhead appeared at Swillington Ings on New Year’s Eve.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A
Uncommon to scarce breeder; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. BBS 6/211
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 161

Breeds on fast-flowing rivers mostly in the west of the county, with numbers swollen in winter. Since colonizing the UK in 1871, males still fly to Tana Fjord, North Norway to moult during September, and this may account for some coastal sightings. Colonisation of England is continuing, and the regional population probably increasing, although winter numbers have decreased since mid 1990s.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	10	38	25	3	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	9
Blackmoorfoot	6	12	13	1	2	0	0	0	8	12	14	11
Bretton Park	40	38	30	4	0	0	0	0	–	–	27	–
Castle Howard	7	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Catcliffe Flash	25	12	11	3	–	–	–	1	–	3	9	–
Cold Edge Dam	–	1	3	1	2	2	2	12	5	11	1	–
East Park	25	22	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	18
Eccup Res	52	–	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	68
Elland GP	25	20	6	6	17	24	2	0	0	2	5	23
Hay-a-Park GP	14	23	15	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	15
Horbury Wyke	12	8	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	20
Old Moor	97	95	47	10	6	–	–	–	1	12	58	126
Pugney’s CP	52	91	12	3	–	–	8	1	–	–	53	25
Southfield Res	35	25	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	45
Swillington Ings	56	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	43	111
Winterset Res	76	91	37	21	2	0	0	0	0	10	42	54

Most of the higher counts came from winter roost sites. Monthly maxima in January included 130 at Fairburn Ings, 41 at Rodley NR, 35 at Orgreave Lakes, 30 at Pugney’s CP, 22 at Rother Valley CP, 20 at Bradley Hall Farm, 17 at Poppleton, 16 at both Elsecar Res and Skipton SW and 15 at Elland GP. In February counts included 91 at Winterset Res, which represented the highest count there for three years, 46 at Raker Lakes, near Wheldrake, 30 at Rother Valley CP, 21 at Thorne Moors, 20 at both Treeton Dyke and Bretton Lakes, 17 at Farnley Res and 16 at both Sands Lane GP and Yeadon Tarn. March counts included 23 at Nostell Dam, 17 at Bretton Lakes, 12 on the river at Naburn and in April, there were 35 at Gorpley Clough and 18 at Orgreave Lakes mid-month.

Smaller numbers than usual were recorded on coastal passage, starting with two off Flamborough on 7th January, eight east past Spurn on 14th February, one tracking past Marine Drive on 20th March, five past Spurn on 3rd April and a single flying past Long Nab on 6th.

Reports of breeding came from the strongholds in the west, with family parties noted on the River Wharfe at Grassington, Strid Wood, near Otley and at Ben Rhydding, with suspected breeding also at Ox Close and Tadcaster. On the River Aire an adult and three young were seen from Skipton SW and a family party appeared at Bingley. Along the River Calder family parties were reported at Hebden and Lower Hopton, with 12 juveniles at Healey Mills in July and two pairs bred near Elland GP, raising 24 young. On the River Ure, eight young were located near High Batts NR and a family party also appeared at Hawes. The only other report related to a family party at Gouthwaite Res.

Coastal passage during the autumn appeared better than normal, beginning with a single heading past Flamborough on 5th August and another there on 18th September. During October, ten flew north past Spurn on 16th, seven tracked past Flamborough the next day, 24 overflowed South Landing, Flamborough on 24th, followed by six south at Spurn and six at Flamborough on 30th. In November, two flew past Spurn on 2nd, six were logged past Flamborough on 6th, five there the next day, with a single heading past Long Nab on 9th. Finally, in December, three flew past Marine Drive on 4th and four were on the sea off Filey on 31st.

Higher counts during the second half of the year included 84 at Thornton Moor Res in September. During November, 26 were at Lambutts, 21 on Orgreave Lakes, 17 at both Bretton Park and Broomhead Res and 14 at Blackmoorfoot Res. In December, there were 28 at Newton-on-Ouse, 18 at both East Park, Hull and on the River Don at Aldwarke, with 16 on the River Ouse at Bishopthorpe Bridge.



Goosander
Ray Scally

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* **C**
Scarce feral breeder since 1980; uncommon visitor from 1968. BBS 1/216

Due to control measures, there was a 45% national fall in numbers over the 2006/07 winter to those of the late 1980s, and this decrease is also evident in the county.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Old Moor	4	6	6	6	4	9	5	7	3	4	7	2
Potteric Carr	–	–	2	3	2	2	3	6	–	–	–	–
Swillington Ings	10	14	–	4	2	1	–	–	29	30	–	–
Tophill Low	17	–	–	3	–	3	–	–	–	2	–	–
Winterset Res	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	6	9	10

Small numbers were present throughout at Fairburn Ings, Swillington Ings and Winterset Res. Early in the year, lone females appeared at Rother Valley CP from 1st–7th January, Thrybergh CP for most of January and Beal Carrs on 22nd/23rd. In February singles visited Southfield Res on 1st, Broomhill Flash on 10th and Bolton-on-Swale GP, Durkar Sand Quarry and Skelton Lake on 21st, whilst six were logged at Huggin Carr on 3rd. The following month, four were at Farnley Res on 14th, one appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 29th and a female remained at Beal Carrs from 23rd March until 3rd April. Later in April, two dropped in at Mickletown Ings on 18th, a pair was at Southfield Res on 24th and a male was observed displaying to male Tufted Ducks at Catcliffe Flash on 16th May.

During the summer, breeding was reported from Potteric Carr (three pairs produced 22 young), at Swillington Ings (two pairs produced ten young) and from Tophill Low, where three adults and four young were present in June. Elsewhere, there were occasional sightings of a lone female at Broomhill Flash between June and August, one was at Flasks Lake on 27th June, a pair visited Edderthorpe Flash on 29th July, on which date two were also at Rother Valley CP. In August, a pair lingered at North Cave from 15th–20th, the female remaining until the month’s end, and lone females appeared at Otley Wetlands on 19th, the Pulfin & High Eske area on 24th and Thrybergh CP from 24th–30th.

There was a scattering of reports during the autumn, mostly of singles which chose not to linger. Two were at Hornsea Mere on 2nd/3rd September, with singles at Broomhill Flash on 12th and 21st September, with presumably the same again on 10th October, and at Pulfin & High Eske on 16th September. A female was at Southfield Res on 30th September and again on 4th and 13th October. Additional October records included one at Lingham Lake on 9th, three at Routh Heron Lakes on 13th, a single at Orgreave Lakes on 18th and three at Dale Pits on 29th. In November, lone individuals were at Huggin Carr and Southfield Res on 7th and 14th, Ulley CP also on 7th, Eccup Res on 9th and Rother Valley CP on 10th. In the Hull Valley, there were three at Hornsea Mere on 13th November, one at Swinemoor Common on 15th and three at Welton Waters on 28th. The final record for the year related to a single at Rother Valley CP on 17th and 26th December.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident breeder of upland moors.
BBS 43/216: –2% (–10) 1995–2009, +8% (+12) 2009–10

Yorkshire is an English stronghold of this subspecies of the European Willow Ptarmigan. It breeds exclusively on heather moorland, where the population is managed. A long-term population decline due to loss of heather moorland, viral disease and predation from corvids and foxes has prompted the move of this species to the Amber list.

Monitoring undertaken by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust across a number of moors in northern England showed an 18% increase in spring densities from the previous year. Despite the prolonged snow cover in January, there was high winter survival, and the increased use of medicated grit to reduce parasite burdens resulted in high breeding success. This in turn led to the highest mean July densities ever recorded in England.

The few notable counts received were not a true reflection of the population, but included January totals of 250 at Smallfield, 250 at Strines and 300 on Broomhead Moor, all near Sheffield. Post-breeding, separate coveys of 150 and 300 were flushed on Barnside Moor on 7th September, followed by 350 at Harden, south of Huddersfield in November.

Ref: Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. *Review of 2010. A full Report of the activities of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust during the year.* Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare to scarce resident breeder. BBS 2/216

This species continues to do well in the Yorkshire Dales and has benefited from habitat improvements.

A summary of lekking males was as follows:

Area	2009	2010
Arkengarthdale	25	24
Ribblesdale	2	3
Swaledale	33	19
Wensleydale	32	19
Wharfedale	0	1
East Pennine fringe	17	18
County total	109	84
Full lek survey	yes	yes

The decline in the number of lekking males in the Yorkshire Dales can be attributed to poor breeding success in both 2008 and 2009, followed by high over-winter mortality in late 2009 and early 2010. Despite these declines, there has been no overall change in the distribution of this species across the Dales, and the small increases noted on the edge of the core range are particularly encouraging.

A translocation trial to a site west of Hawes proved to be very successful. Wild males from donor moors in the North Pennines were released to establish new leks, thereby attracting dispersing females to settle and breed. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust are now hoping to expand this project further to aid the recolonisation of formerly occupied habitats across the Dales.

The good weather during the chick rearing period resulted in excellent breeding productivity of 2.3 chicks per hen across northern England, and represented the best breeding season in the North Pennines since 1996. In the Peak District, those surviving from a reintroduction scheme included three males in the Ewden area in the first winter period and a maximum of six lekking males and at least one female later in the year. Two lekking males were also observed at Moscar Cross.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* **C**

Common resident. BBS 45/216: +39% (+22) 1995–2009, –19% (+1) 2009–10

Based on BBS data, numbers have increased in most areas of the county, although to what extent the population is dependent on releases for shooting is not clear, the numbers of which have more than doubled since 1990. However, a significant decrease was again apparent this year.

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust state that around six million are released across the country each year. Given this number, an assessment of the population trend is extremely difficult. There were widespread records from across Yorkshire, but the only detailed comments received indicated it is becoming increasingly scarce around Pulfin & High Eske and also in the Leeds area, while there were no records at all from Filey.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **AC**

Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident. BBS 30/216

The national picture is one of rapid decline, probably due to agricultural intensification, but also overshooting in areas where Red-legged Partridges are released. Noted in more BBS squares this year within Yorkshire. However, there is insufficient evidence to determine population changes, particularly from the arable strongholds in East and North Yorkshire, where releases can temporarily boost the population.

This species was widely reported from a number of locations in the north of the county, although most records related to no more than three. In the east, the population also appears to be doing well in the Scarborough area, with eight records of over ten and a maximum of 22 at Star Carr on 7th November. Unlike the aforementioned species, it was a good year at Filey, with numerous records, including notable counts of 34 on 17th January and 17th November. Speeton hosted 21 on 16th November, whilst numbers appeared to be increasing at Flamborough, presumably due to sympathetic farming practices. There were six double figure counts from the Hull Valley, including 13 at Foston on 8th October and the same number at Pulfin & High Eske on 27th October. A covey of ten near Fort Paull on 2nd October represented the first record there in three years, while Beechwood, also in the East Riding, hosted 21 on 10th January.

In the Barnsley area, there were records from 14 sites during the breeding season, including 12 territorial pairs around Winterset, with peak counts at Wombwell Ings of up to 30 in early August, increasing to 40 by the end of September and 40 at Old Moor in mid December. Near Sheffield, there were highs of 15 at Silverwood Pit Top on 1st September and 14 in Mayfield Valley on 21st December.

There was an increase noted in the Huddersfield area, with records from 35 sites, including counts of 20 at High Hoyland on 25th January, 21 near the Isle of Skye Road on 2nd October and a covey of 40 near Deer Hill on 23rd October. However, a decline was apparent around Halifax, with records from 18 sites, including a peak of 18 at Soil Hill from mid September through into October. Near Leeds, there were reports from only nine locations away from the Skelton Lake/Swillington Ings area, with peak counts of 21 at the latter site in August and 19 at Leventhorpe on 18th October.

The decline continued in Upper Wharfedale, while it remained scarce around Harrogate with the exception of the Great Ouseburn and Nosterfield NR areas, with a maximum of 25 at the latter in October. In the York area, there were 12 at Sutton-upon-Derwent on 3rd September and 21 at Clifton Backies on 20th October.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* **A**

Amber list: scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/216

Although appearing a weak flyer, each year it migrates from North African wintering grounds; numbers vary from year to year.

It was a slightly above average year for this summer visitor, with a minimum of 92 calling males reported, with a notable increase in records in July. Apart from obvious migrants at South Gare on 24th April and at Kilnsea on the evening of 21st May, all other records refer to calling birds unless otherwise stated.

In one of the strongholds, there were 56 calling males in the Lower Derwent Valley, where present from 17th April until 29th August; seven males were ringed, including three showing extensive brood patches. In addition, a single caught and ringed as a chick the previous year returned to its natal field in 2010.

In the north-east, Kirklevington attracted a single on 2nd July. West of Scarborough, singles were recorded at Sawdon on 8th July, Broxa the following day and Silpho on 19th July. Three were calling near Bempton on 26th June, increasing to six during July, with an additional single at Flamborough on 6th July. On the Yorkshire Wolds, two were present near Helperthorpe from 10th June into July, with two near Wetwang and a single near North Dalton during the month. There were just two singing males in the Hull Valley, near Hutton Cranswick on 27th May and Raywell on 18th/19th June. Further west, there were singles at Went Ings on 11th June, Saltmarshe Delph on 20th June, Skirpenbeck also in late June and up to three at North Cave between 12th June and 6th August.

Near Rotherham, there were singles at Silverwood Pit Top on 26th May and at Nether Haugh, near Rawmarsh, on 12th June. There were four records from Barnsley, with singles calling at Whitley Common/Spicer House Lane from 12th–20th June, near Clay Royd Bridge on 21st June which represented the first at Winterset since 2005, another at Carlton Marsh from 25th–27th June and one near Worsbrough from 12th–16th July. A single called near Dewsbury SF on 24th August, while one at Leeshaw on 21st/22nd June represented the first record in the Bradford area since 1999.

Fairburn Ings hosted a single on 14th and 16th June, with another at Saxton, near Tadcaster on 28th/29th June, followed by two there on 6th July, with another nearby at Newton Kyme on 7th July.

The only autumn migrant related to a single at Easington on 5th September.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **C**

Common to abundant resident

BBS 164/216: +77% (+34) 1995–2009, –1% (–1) 2009–10

This is one of the most widespread species, with particularly large populations in North Yorkshire, where many are released for shooting. The trend from BBS data shows a rapid increase, doubling in numbers since 1994, and this species is just outside the top 15 most common birds in the county.

As there are an estimated 35 million released nationwide, of which perhaps less than half are shot, any assessment of the county population trend remains difficult. There were no notable comments received about any change in status, apart from numbers breeding near Halifax appear to be increasing.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 300: GB threshold 170

This circumpolar species breeds in decreasing numbers in Europe, in northern Scandinavia and north-west Scotland, and many winter in the southern North Sea.

Counts in the north were lower than usual, with 32 at Skinningrove on 24th September and 42 heading north off Redcar on 14th December. There were better numbers further south, often linked to the coldest weather. A seawatch at Marine Drive, Scarborough produced 42 on 12th January, while nearby Long Nab logged 43 on 24th September and 49 two days later. An impressive 121 flew south past Marine Drive on 4th December, 110 went north at Long Nab on 14th December and, finally, 59 passed Marine Drive on 27th December. Filey recorded up to 35 in late January, while numbers in the Bay peaked at 37 on 7th March. Reflecting the return passage noted at Scarborough, 109 headed south past the Brigg on 24th September, while the year closed with 42 in the Bay on 18th December.

Flamborough recorded higher than average counts at either end of the year, including 384 on 17th and 319 on 24th January and 209 on 1st and 184 on 2nd December. In addition, 111 tracked past Flamborough on 25th September. Immediately to the south, relatively high numbers were recorded off Barmston during January, including 175 on 30th with 54 still present offshore on 5th March. The southern end of the Holderness coast also attracted good totals, with 200 off Grimston on 14th February and the same number again on 3rd March.

Spurn experienced an above average year, with the largest movements relating to 155 on 27th January, 173 on 14th February, 184 the following day and 20th February; 105 on 4th March; 97 on 25th September and, finally, 99 on 29th November.

A single on Hornsea Mere on 4th April was presumably the same individual present from 18th–25th April (RL *et al.*). Later in the year, a single flew over Winterset at 1002 hrs on 9th October before heading south (PM) and on the Humber, three were off Sunk Island on 8th November.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but most of Yorkshire’s records are of birds from Scandinavia and northern Russia. Like the previous species, its UK population is increasing in contrast to a decline elsewhere in Europe, with a 34% increase in Scotland in the 12 years to 2006; this increase has largely been attributed to the placement of artificial breeding islands on Scottish lochs.

In the Scarborough area, two flew south past Cromer Point on 13th January. In the second half of the year, a single headed north past Long Nab on 16th August, having earlier been recorded off Flamborough, followed by several records in September, starting with a single north at Long Nab on 13th, two past Marine Drive on 19th and then singles north at Long Nab on 24th and 26th September. Scarborough’s last related to one that flew north past Marine Drive on 7th November. The Filey seawatch team recorded three singles: on 18th February, 4th March and 24th October.

Reflecting the situation elsewhere, records were scarce early on at Flamborough, with singles on 18th and 30th January and 1st March. A single on the sea on 16th August later flew north and was followed by singles on 12th and 25th October. Records increased at Flamborough during November, with eight bird/days, including two on 20th, while three on 14th December contributed to a monthly total of nine bird/days. At Barmston a single headed north on 24th October, followed by two similarly on 20th November. Spurn had another good year, starting with a single north on 7th January, another doing the same on 10th February, and one on the sea on 23rd February. A single that flew north on 31st July was unseasonal and preceded an adult in full breeding plumage that flew south on 29th August. More typical were singles heading north on 9th and 26th September, and, finally, one flew north off Spurn on 13th October.

Inland, a single took up residence at Swillington Ings from 20th–29th November (GR *et al.*).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* **A**

Amber list: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species.

A single appeared occasionally off South Gare during January/February, while in the second half of the year the only records from the north–east coastline referred to lone individuals off Redcar on 5th November and Saltburn on 30th December. Near Scarborough, singles were logged off Cromer Point/Marine Drive on 11th January, 1st February and 8th February, while the first to return was logged heading south past Long Nab on 5th September. Three flew north off Long Nab on 26th September, before the usual increase in records in the latter half of October/November. A single north past Long Nab on 16th October was the precursor to singles passing the Scarborough coastline on 4th, 6th and 7th November, while a first–winter took up residence around the harbour from 13th November until the end of the year. The only other December record off Scarborough related to a single north past Long Nab on 14th. Filey Bay again hosted several wintering individuals, with three present during January and two remaining through until 9th May. The second period was relatively quiet at Filey after the first returned on 6th October, with no more than two on any day through until the year–end.

A good showing at Flamborough started with 15 bird/days during the first two months, including four on 15th January. There were no further records until a surprising flurry in May, with 10 bird/days during the month and a best of three on 22nd. A single on 19th July was the only mid–summer record and preceded three on 16th September and a further five singles on sporadic dates until the end of October. Passage off Flamborough peaked in November, with maxima of three on both 7th and 10th, while the year ended with five singles logged during December. Singles headed north past Barmston on 31st October and 13th November, with two similarly the next day. Up to two were logged off Spurn on occasional dates from 2nd January until 16th May, with a high of three on 14th February. After a single headed south at Spurn on 20th July, the autumn was more subdued, with singles on eight dates between 10th October and 21st December.

A legacy from 2009, the two juveniles remained at Scammonden Dam until 8th January. A single at Gouthwaite Res on 6th November overflowed the reservoir, before heading back down the valley (PVI). A juvenile visited Rother Valley CP on 13th November, with perhaps the same dropping onto the Park Lake at Winterset on 0850hrs on 14th November (PM *et al.*); it stayed until 3rd December, when it was forced out by the prolonged icy conditions.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/216

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 78

Breeds on small, shallow fresh waters, and easily overlooked unless riverine surveys are conducted. National population is stable.

In the north–east, two pairs bred at Margrove Ponds, with additional pairs at Brotton, Hemlington Lake, Lovell Hill and Skelton Castle. Two pairs bred at both Filey Dams and Kelk Beck, while Tophill Low attracted seven pairs and four pairs raised young at Brigham Quarry. Single pairs also bred within the Hull Valley at Routh Heron Lakes, Leconfield’s Normandy Barracks and Paull Holme Strays. Two pairs bred at Spurn and one pair at North Cave, while Blacktoft Sands hosted 14 pairs, nearby Faxfleet Ponds a further two, and there were 11 pairs at Potteric Carr.

Waters in the west sustained the bulk of the population, including the Dearne Valley, where Old Moor hosted 14 pairs that produced 19 broods totalling 42 young. Bolton Ings held 13 pairs fledging 17 young and Broomhill Flash attracted seven pairs producing 11 young. Fifteen pairs bred at Fairburn Ings with an impressive 54 broods recorded at nearby Swillington Ings.

Aggregations in the east included 25 on Beacon Ponds at both ends of the year, 15 on the Driffeld Canal, 13 at Pulfin & High Eske on 1st February, 19 at Wykeham Lakes on 2nd October, 65 at Welton Waters on 4th October and 35 on Lakeside, Doncaster on 8th October.

There were much higher totals in the west, with Old Moor attracting 129 on 18th July, Fairburn Ings held 52 on 21st July, Nosterfield NR hosted 28 during August, Winterset 30 on 19th September and Skelton Lake attracted up to 34 during September.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* **A**

Uncommon to scarce resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/216

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3600: GB threshold 159

A widespread species in Europe found on larger lowland lakes, reservoirs, meres and gravel pits. The breeding and wintering population is probably increasing; sometimes significant numbers winter on the coast.

Along the coast there were 21 in Filey Bay during January, 41 off South Dykes, Flamborough on 6th February, immediately to the south, there were 26 at Barmston on 24th January and 59 present there on 5th March. During the second half, 50 congregated off Atwick on 10th October.

Pugney’s GP hosted 35 during February, but most appreciable inland counts came in the latter half of the year. In the east, Tophill Low attracted 40 on 2nd October, with a similar total at Southfield Res on 5th October, while Pulfin & High Eske’s best related to 25 on 19th October.

The highest counts came from waters in the west, with 24 at Old Moor on 22nd June and 18th July, 39 at Fairburn Ings and 28 at Eccup Res during July and 41 at Lingham Lake during August, that represented a record local count. The cold snap resulted in numbers building up on ice–free waters, with 22 at Worsbrough Res on 20th November, 80 at Winterset on 28th November, 45 at Pugney’s CP in December and 30 at Thrybergh CP from 1st–4th December.

There are fewer waters in the eastern half of the county capable of sustaining breeding numbers, but pairs still bred at Coatham Marsh, Seamer Road Mere and Wykeham Lakes. Three pairs bred at Pulfin & High Eske, two at Normandy Barracks and single pairs at Brough Angling Complex, East Park Lake in Hull and at Tophill Low. Three pairs bred at both North Cave and Blacktoft Sands, with a single pair at Faxfleet Ponds and seven pairs at Potteric Carr. Successful breeding was recorded at eight sites near Sheffield, including four pairs at Wentworth Park and three at Thrybergh CP, and at seven sites around Barnsley, including nine pairs at Old Moor and 12 at Winterset. Fourteen pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, in addition to seven sites within the Leeds recording area, including 21 pairs at Swillington Ings that successfully raised 30 young. Further north, pairs bred at seven sites within the Harrogate area, including four at Farnham GP, three at Gouthwaite Res and two at Nosterfield NR.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* **A**

30,32,18,25,44

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west.

One lingered off South Gare from 1st–10th January, with another in residence at Filey from New Year until 27th February, followed by singles off Redcar on 14th January and Flamborough on 31st January and again on 3rd February.

A summer–plumaged adult in Filey Bay on 12th June was unusual.

A single flew south down the Humber at Spurn on 21st August, with presumably the same juvenile heading north over the sea the next day and one headed past Flamborough on 28th August. A single flew west at Skinningrove on 2nd September, while there were nine bird/days at Flamborough during September, including three on 24th and two on 26th. The final days of September produced a flurry of further records, including one

that sheltered on the sea off Barmston on 26th, a single south off Long Nab on 27th, one in Filey Bay the next day that remained in residence until the year-end, with a second individual noted at Filey on 30th September.

October produced singles off Flamborough on 11th and 19th, south at Long Nab on 24th and another that flew south past Spurn on 28th. The only November records were confined to Flamborough, with a single on 1st, two on 7th and singles again on 10th and 27th. A lone individual flew north past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 12th December, followed by singles at Flamborough on 14th and 23rd and a single north at Spurn on the latter date. The year ended with a single south at Spurn on 27th December, followed by two heading north off Marine Drive the following day.

Winterset attracted the first inland record, an adult on 27th January (PS *et al.*). Pulfin & High Eske then hosted a single on 13th February (DGH), followed by a first-winter at Winterset from 19th–22nd February (SMe: PS *et al.*); the latter relocated to nearby Pugney’s CP on 24th February, where it remained until 25th March (IB: JHol: DPr *et al.*). A single graced Ellerton Ings on 3rd/4th March, with another at Southfield Res on 15th March. An adult stayed on Hornsea Mere on 8th–9th September (GRB: DJV), while a juvenile at North Cave from 10th–19th September represented a first record for the reserve and, finally, Hornsea Mere hosted a juvenile on 16th September.

An adult again summered on Ten Acre Lake, Hatfield Moors from 22nd March until 31st July.



SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* **A**

23,19,11,17,23

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn

A small population of the larger-billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller-billed eastern population, breeding from Sweden eastwards, which winters in the county.

A single remained off South Gare on 1st–2nd January, while Filey Bay hosted up to four from the start of the year until 23rd February. Spurn’s sole record related to a single on the Humber on 18th February.

A single was photographed on the Skua Cruise off Bridlington on 2nd October, followed by one that sheltered off South Landing, Flamborough on 9th October. Filey Bay again proved to be the favoured location, with two on 29th October and, perhaps the same duo, still in residence there during the middle of December. A single flew north past Flamborough on 29th November, with another similarly on 14th December.

Away from the coast, Tophill Low hosted a single on 11th January (PDo), followed by one at Southfield Res on 26th January, the first there since 1996. Another lingered at Welton Waters from 8th–24th February and a single stayed at Hornsea Mere from 11th February to 4th April (RL *et al.*).

A juvenile at Hornsea Mere on 21st September was joined by an adult the following day and three were then present from 30th September through until 10th October (EJH: RL *et al.*). Elsewhere, one remained at Lakeside, Doncaster from 26th September until 14th October and Pugney’s CP hosted two on 8th October (DD). Hornsea Mere attracted a single from 13th –27th November and another appeared at Tophill Low on 24th October (GRB: EJH: MRo *et al.*).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds sporadically in the county, with a distribution stretching from Spain eastwards.

A single at Scaling Dam on 8th–9th September represented the only record from the north-east. A lone individual on Hornsea Mere on 30th January was a relatively unusual mid winter record. However, later sightings from the same site were more expected, starting with a juvenile on 29th July, four on 18th August, with singles present on the Mere on 28th August, 16th September and 7th October. Up to two remained in residence at Boston Park Lake, Hatfield Moors from 12th August until 26th September, while Southfield Res attracted a single on 26th October.

Silverwood Pit Top hosted one on 25th May and an adult lingered at Orgreave Lakes on 1st/2nd July, with an immature at the same site on 4th September. Two were present at Broomhill Flash on 13th/14th July, another graced Winterset on 26th July, with a juvenile remaining there from 6th–15th August and, probably the same again, on 20th/21st August. A single stayed at Pugney’s CP from 1st–8th August, followed by another on 30th August, two on 4th September and again on 18th October.

A single appeared at Fairburn Ings on 5th August, while immediately to the west, singles were recorded at Skelton Lake on 10th and 27th July, 14th and 28th August and 11th September. In addition, Bowers Lake attracted a single on 18th August and one appeared on Eccup Res on 5th September.

In Wharfedale, there were two on the Fishing Lake at Otley on 25th March and an immature at Nosterfield NR from 26th July–4th August was joined by an adult on 28th/29th July.

There was a series of breeding records, including four adults in the Lower Derwent Valley, two of which paired and produced a single juvenile. A pair fledged one young on the Humberhead Peatlands NNR, with a pair at Potteric Carr fledging a single juvenile. One pair raised three young at Swillington Ings and represented the first breeding in the Leeds area since 1953. The Harrogate area also hosted a pair that raised at least one juvenile. At an additional site, six pairs bred and reared at least 11 young.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common offshore; occasional inland. BBS 1/216

The breeding populations at Hunt Cliff and between Skinningrove and Cowbar held around 90 and 165 pairs respectively, a similar figure to the 250 pairs total the previous year. There were three breeding pairs at Marine Drive, Saltburn and additional breeding pairs at Roseberry Topping.

A boat survey from Scarborough to Saltburn on 27th May located 1532 apparently occupied nest sites. A nest count from Rocky Point, south of Ravenscar to Scalby Mills produced 69 pairs; Seabird 2000 located 80 pairs along the same stretch a decade earlier. At other locations in the Scarborough district, there were 19 nests on the Castle Headland, two nests on the Grand Hotel and at least five pairs at Stoupe Beck Quarry. A boat survey on the cliffs north of Filey on 21st May revealed 842 nest sites, although a proportion of these related to prospecting non-breeders. Although no detailed count was undertaken, productivity in the Bempton/Flamborough colony showed that 0.55 young fledged/pair, significantly higher than the UK average during 1986–2005 of 0.41 young/pair.

A movement off Filey on 9th January comprised 400 south and 120 north. Flamborough recorded 926 on 23rd January, while 832 flew past Flamborough on 6th March. Marine Drive (Scarborough) witnessed 287 heading south on 3rd April, when 385 did similarly past Filey. The Filey seawatch team then logged 300 north on 31st May, followed by Flamborough recording 997 on 12th June, while 340 headed north past Long Nab on 20th June. Spurn’s best counts occurred during the autumn, with 164 on 14th August, 139 on 26th and 260 on 26th September. There were several significant counts during December, including 852 on 9th and 943 on 11th at Flamborough and 330 flew south past Marine Drive (Scarborough) on 28th December.

Observations of Blue Fulmars were scattered throughout the year and started in January, with three off Flamborough on 3rd and two there on 23rd, a single picked up dead at Marske on 28th and another single off Flamborough on 30th. The only February record headed past Flamborough on 14th February. Mid-summer records included a single tracking north past Skinningrove on 24th June, lone individuals passing Flamborough on 2nd and 19th July, followed by singles there on 1st, 2nd and 29th August. The seawatch team at Flamborough logged two on 26th September, with another the following day, while November proved to be the best month, with five ‘Blues’ off Flamborough on 17th, one on 22nd and four on 29th. Two headed past Flamborough on 12th December, with a similar number passing Marine Drive (Scarborough) on 28th December and, finally, singles were off Filey on 29th and 31st December.

FEA’S/ZINO’S PETREL *Pterodroma feae/madeira* **A** 0,0,0,1,2

Vagrant; ten previous records

A late summer/autumn rarity from breeding colonies in the north-east Atlantic.

On 18th September a single flew south past Grimston from 1728–1730hrs (TI). A phone call alerted the masses at Spurn and a crowd at the sea-watching hut was rewarded at 1800hrs as the petrel approached distantly, before disappointing many by doubling back (RTw *et al.*). A few observers then raced to the north side of the gas terminal at Easington and had much better views, as it drifted back north at much closer range.

A relatively late single then headed north past Flamborough during a good seawatch at 1355hrs on 16th October (BR: AMA: DTh); surprisingly, the first site record for five years.

CORY’S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* **A** 2,1,2,11,5

Rare late summer/autumn coastal visitor from the Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

Spurn’s first ever spring record flew south past the sea-watching hut at 1850hrs on 1st May (GED *et al.*) and was then followed by another south there at 0725hrs on 18th June (RJS).

Spurn then hosted a series of records during mid-summer/early autumn, probably relating to a single individual: north on 17th July (SE: JMT); south on 25th July (SE *et al.*); south at 16.40 hrs on 7th August (NP *et al.*); south at 1730 hrs on 8th August (JMT *et al.*); north on 22nd August (SGw); south at 1930 hrs on 26th August (IS *et al.*); north at 1215 hrs on 26th September (AJB: MK).

Elsewhere, a single passed Skinningrove on 20th July (DP: ECP) and a single flew south at Filey at 0735hrs on 2nd September (JS).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* **A** 0,74,2,5,2

Rare coastal visitor, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic

Breeds at three sites in the South Atlantic, and as a transequatorial migrant moves clockwise around the North Atlantic, reaching Yorkshire waters from July to October.

Two headed north past Flamborough on 26th September on a day of strong northerly winds and relatively overcast conditions (AMA).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon summer/autumn coastal passage migrant; rare in spring/winter

A migrant from the southern hemisphere that has been declining globally in recent years.

The first headed north past Cowbar on 22nd July, followed by one off Flamborough the following day. Numbers remained relatively low until the last week of August, with 32 heading past Spurn on 26th. Northbound totals on 30th included four heading past Cowbar, 19 off Filey, 42 passing Flamborough and 28 off Spurn.

After two relatively poor years, September produced a return to form, with 1221 bird/days off Flamborough, compared to only 498 during last year’s corresponding month. The highest totals included 132 north off Flamborough and 76 passing Spurn on 17th, 226 at Flamborough the next day and 51 off Spurn and 224 heading north at Flamborough on 24th. The best day proved to be 26th September, with 520 north at Flamborough, 226 at Filey, 206 off Spurn and 194 north at Long Nab.

Northerly winds triggered another movement on 16th October, when 17 headed past Long Nab, 52 went north at Filey, 60 tracked past Spurn and 192 were logged flying north at Flamborough. Low single figures noted during early November, including six off Flamborough on 7th, while the year’s last appeared off the Headland on 10th December.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* **A**

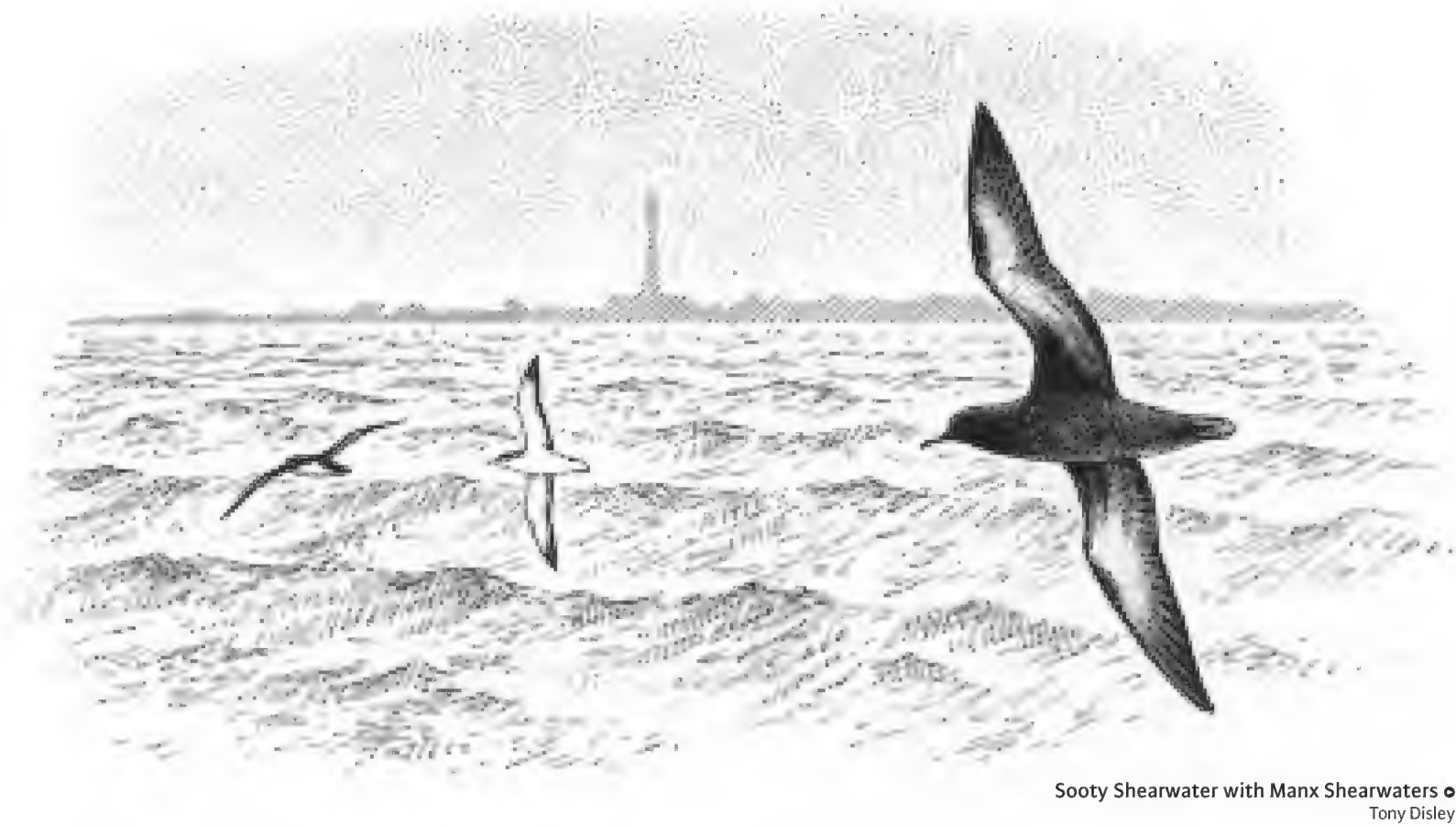
Amber list: fairly common coastal passage migrant, mainly summer/autumn

Breeds around the temperate North Atlantic, including western Britain and Ireland, with the majority of our birds transequatorial migrants wintering off the coast of South America, mostly Brazil, but some remain in the Bay of Biscay.

A single passing Flamborough on 24th April represented the first, with numbers increasing from the middle of May, including 16 south off Long Nab on 17th and a more impressive 224 passing Flamborough on 31st May. The next appreciable movement took place on 20th June, when 123 headed north off Long Nab and 331 did similarly at Flamborough.

July’s best movements were 105 off Long Nab on 11th, 198 heading south past Marine Drive and 79 at Filey the next day, 240 north at Long Nab on 22nd and, finally, 530 that tracked past Flamborough the following day. A lack of favourable winds meant August disappointed, with 92 north at Long Nab and 404 similarly at Flamborough on 30th August the best. There were no three-figure counts in September and 80 heading north at Long Nab and 70 north at Flamborough on 26th represented the highlight. A northerly blow on 16th October prompted 25 to head back north at Flamborough. After odd singles during November, lone individuals then flew past Flamborough on 11th December and north off Filey on 29th December.

Along the Humber, a single flew west then returned east off Paull Holme Strays on 25th September. More unusual, a single lingered at Pugney’s CP on 19th September and represented the second site record (IB: DD: KP *et al.*).



BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **A** 48,67,24,51,28

UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in declining numbers in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. Currently a regular visitor to British waters, with around 1,000 individuals reported annually.

A disappointing year started with two singles north past Spurn on 23rd July that preceded a single off Flamborough the next day, followed by one north past Marine Drive on 26th July.

August opened with a single heading north past Filey on 1st, followed by a single off Flamborough on 6th, one south at Spurn the following day and a single south at Filey and two off Flamborough on 14th August. After a gap, a single tracked north at Spurn on 23rd August, Flamborough then chipped in with one on 25th, two on 27th and one on 28th August, before one headed north off Long Nab and two did similarly past Spurn on 30th August.

September produced two south at Filey on 3rd and singles at Flamborough on 8th, 9th, 17th and 19th and, finally, two on 26th September.

There were two relatively late records at Flamborough, singles on 20th and 28th November that completed a below average showing.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce to uncommon coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, dispersing southwards in autumn and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

Ringling sessions at Filey were rewarded with a single bouncing the net on 4th July and four trapped and ringed on 9th July. Two were also trapped and ringed at Long Nab during the early hours of 10th July, while a single avoided capture at a ringling session at Flamborough on 17th July. Finally, two were trapped at Long Nab on 18th July.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **A** 6,13,8,23,7

Amber list: rare to scarce coastal migrant, usually late autumn; rare inland

Breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species, it usually feeds well offshore and Yorkshire records usually involve gale-driven birds.

A single was trapped and ringed at Long Nab at 0025 hrs on 18th July.

Two singles were recorded at Flamborough on 24th September, with the first heading south and the next off South Landing (JMP: BR *et al.*), while a single eventually headed north past the sea-watching hut at Spurn the same day (IRC *et al.*). Two days later another also headed north past Spurn. Finally, one flew north past Flamborough on 16th October (BR *et al.*).

Inland, a single at Orgreave Lakes from 0730–0755hrs on 19th September flew off towards Treeton, where unfortunately, it was taken by a Sparrowhawk (MNR).

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon but increasing breeder, fairly common offshore

Breeds in the North Atlantic, with 60% of the East Atlantic population nesting in Britain and Ireland and migrates southwards in autumn.

The Bempton colony continues to grow, with 7895 apparently occupied nests resulting in Guillemots again displaced within the colony. Productivity was almost identical to the previous year, with 0.86 fledged young/pair, which reflects the 30-year average of c.0.8 young/pair. In order to gain an understanding of the movements of adults, 14 were satellite tagged on 14th July.

On the north-east coastline, the only appreciable count related to 500 feeding off Redcar on 13th July. Further south, 1000 fed between Scalby Nab and Cromer Point north of Scarborough on 4th August. Appreciable movements around Scarborough included 520 southbound at Long Nab on 27th August, 600 headed north there on 30th August, 1450 flew south off Long Nab on 5th September, 980 headed south at Marine Drive on 12th September and, finally, 825 tracked north on 26th September.

Only a handful observed off Filey at the start of the year, although numbers soon increased, with 150 feeding off the Brigg on 27th January. Totals continued to increase during the breeding season, with monthly bests of 335 on 3rd April, 856 by the end of May and 1193 logged on 27th June. Easily the best movement past Filey took place on 2nd September, when 3659 passed the Brigg, the vast majority heading south. Relatively few remained at the end of the year, with a high of 389 on 9th November.

The Flamborough seawatch team again recorded the largest movements, all during the first quarter and included 1720 on 23rd January, 1826 on 27th February and 2650 passing the Headland on 6th March. Further south, 794 heading north off Atwick on 18th September was notable.



Gannet •
Jack Ashton-Booth

Spurn's highest totals all occurred during summer/autumn, starting with 526 on 26th May and 623 on 19th June. After 1149 on 14th August and 926 on 29th August, there were 1156 on 17th September, 1200 the next day and, finally, 625 on 16th October.

Along the Humber, 14 were off Sunk Island on 6th September, with a single still present the following day; 18 were off Sunk Island and two juveniles flew upriver past Paull Holme Strays on 18th September. Three juveniles headed upstream from the Humber Bridge on 25th September. Blacktoft Sands then recorded six and 35 were off Sunk Island on 26th September, with 13 present the next day. There were fewer records in October, although one appeared off Paull Holme Strays and 25 were off Sunk Island on 9th; the final record from the Humber related to a single off Sunk Island on 16th October.

A juvenile at Thornton near Bradford on 2nd September had to be taken into care. The last few days of September pushed several juveniles inland, including one west over Winterset at 1010hrs on 22nd September, another of similar age then headed south-west over Ogden and another went south over Silverwood on 24th September. On 25th September, a single flew south over Thrybergh CP and the next day a juvenile overflew Caldene Fields near Bradford. Another went west over Fairburn Ings/Swillington Ings on 9th October, before a juvenile graced Scaling Dam on 28th October.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* **A**

Scarce resident breeder; fairly common winter visitor and migrant. BBS 13/216

Nominate *carbo* breeds on the coasts of the North Atlantic, including the Yorkshire coast. Cormorants also breed at three inland sites in the county, and continental race *sinensis* constitute most if not all of this population. Non-breeding summering birds are present on many inland waters. The inland and wintering population is increasing.

Along the coast, a single pair bred between Saltburn and Hunt Cliff, 19 pairs at Hunt Cliff South, 37 pairs on Boulby Cliffs, 11 pairs between Ravenscar and Cloughton and there were 20 nests at Filey; the latter down from 42 pairs the previous year.

Numbers increased on the South Tees from mid-summer, peaking at 170 in August, before dropping to 120 in September and 87 remained in December. Scarborough's only notable movement related to 56 south at Long Nab on 26th September. Up to six were generally present around Filey Brigg during the first four months, apart from highs of 10 on 24th January and 12 on 13th February. Numbers increased post-breeding, with maxima of 31 during August and 35 in September. During the last two months, a maximum of 21 roosted on Filey's North Cliffs.

Up to 35 noted on a daily basis off Flamborough during the first quarter, while numbers only picked up from mid-summer, starting with 48 on 28th July and 66 on 14th August. September provided the largest counts, including 81 on 18th, before a dramatic reduction towards the year-end, with just 20 remaining on 14th December.

Spring passage through Spurn produced 40 heading south and 18 north between 14th March and 28th April, including a maximum of 16 on 14th March. Autumn passage was light, with only 129 tracking south and 49 north between 10th July and 13th November. The highest autumn counts at Spurn related to 19 on 10th August, 18 on 28th August and 16 on 27th September.

High counts within the Hull Valley included 264 at Hornsea Mere on 10th January, 208 at Watton NR in September, 147 at Tophill Low/Watton NR on 7th October and 230 at Watton NR on 10th October. Southfield Res attracted 58 on 30th September, Beal Carrs pulled in 71 on 4th January and Thrybergh CP hosted 71 on 3rd December. In the Barnsley area, Old Moor hosted 70 on 8th March, with an autumn best of 44 on 14th November, while 30 at Scout Dike Res on 27th November were noteworthy. Pugney's CP also attracted 90 during October/November. Near Leeds, 46 gathered at Skelton Lake on 6th February, while within the Bradford area, 40 at Lindley Wood Res in August represented the highest count since 2006, and up to 44 appeared at Otley Wetland during late November.

Inland, there were 80 breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings and a best count of 188 on 20th June. However, the colony continues to decline at Wheldrake Ings, where ten young fledged from eight nests; reduced water levels and/or the gradual death of the nesting trees are thought to be responsible.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* **A**

Amber list: scarce coastal breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds on rocky coasts of the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, including northeast Yorkshire, with usually only local post-breeding dispersal.

There were two apparently occupied sites between Scarborough and Saltburn, while the Bempton/Flamborough colony was not surveyed; 24 pairs were present there during 2008.

Numbers in the north-east were low, with an isolated peak of 19 at South Gare on 19th January. Later in the year, up to 22 remained in the mouth of the Tees from 7th–22nd September. A movement of 17 south past Long Nab on 10th November was easily the best count from the Scarborough coastline. Filey hosted far fewer than would have been the norm only a few years previously, with no more than 12 around the Brigg during the first quarter, eight in residence from 18th August and a maximum of six from November until the year-end. A total of 26 headed south past Filey Brigg on 26th September.

The only appreciable count early on off Flamborough referred to 98 on 28th February. Much higher counts were received during the autumn and, in particular, the start of the second winter period, which coincided with the cold snap. September produced 154 on 13th and 291 on 19th September, while up to 170 were regular throughout October. Numbers started to increase from mid November, with 221 on 18th and 230 on 26th. However, December brought the highest counts, including 292 on 1st, 660 on 18th and 720 on 24th.

There was a paucity of records from Spurn, with a flock of 27 south on 31st January easily the best out of a mere 84 bird/days during the year.

Three colour-ringed individuals revealed the origins of at least a proportion of our wintering population: a single off Marine Drive on 25th January had been rung as a chick at Inchmickery, Firth of Forth on 10th June 2009. A single off Filey on 19th September had been rung as a nestling at Craighleith, Firth of Forth on 26th June 2010, while another in South Bay, Scarborough on 26th November had been rung as a chick on the Isle of May on 19th June 2010.

Inland, a single visited Wheldrake Ings on 16th March.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding species and scarce migrant and winter visitor

The small British breeding population continues to slowly recover following extensive management work on reedbeds across the country. Yorkshire's small breeding population is augmented by continental immigrants in winter.

In the north-east, two remained in residence around Coatham Marsh from 8th–17th January, with one remaining until 27th February; two records from nearby South Gare during this period presumably relate to one of these. In the second half of the year, one appeared at Coatham Marsh on 12th December.

One at Maunby, north-west of Thirsk on 26th October flew into the side of a farmer's landrover before recovering and flying off; given the time of year, this possibly related to a continental migrant. A single at Burton Riggs near Scarborough on 18th January was relocated on 1st February. Unfortunately it was picked up dead on 12th February; an adult male, it was emaciated and had probably died from starvation.

At least one overwintered at Tophill Low from the start of the year until 21st March and one remained at nearby Watton NR from 17th January until 3rd March. One lingered on a private fishing pond near Kelk from 30th January–21st February, while another stayed at Hornsea Mere from 31st January–21st February and a single appeared near the Waterloo Bridge on the Leven Canal on 4th February. Brough Angling Complex then hosted a single from 15th–18th March. There were fewer reports from the Hull Valley in the second half of the year, although one lingered at Hornsea Mere from 5th November–12th December, a single appeared at Tophill Low on 12th December and North Frodingham hosted another on 30th December.

Up to four were present at Potteric Carr until the last regular sighting on 28th March. A single on 23rd July was the first to return, but then no more than two until the end of December. Clearly the harsh, freezing spells at both ends of the year created problems due to the lack of available food, as evidenced by an individual at Potteric observed catching a Brown Rat under the feeding station. Several reserves augmented natural food supplies with locally bought fish. The Potteric population was spoilt by salmon purchased from Doncaster market and this clearly helped boost survival rates. Torne Bridge hosted a single on 8th December, presumably displaced during the harsh weather.

A single roosted at Pit House West from the start of the year until 2nd March. Singles were also noted at Bolehill Flash on 12th January and Treeton Dyke on 31st January. A single returned to the reedbed at Pit House West on 30th October and stayed to the end of December; one again graced Bolehill Flash briefly on 29th December.

Near Barnsley, a single remained at Carlton Marsh until 4th January, with another noted sporadically at Old Moor from 6th–22nd January. Two individuals graced Winterset from 20th February until 20th March. Denaby Ings attracted a single from 9th–25th February. A single then skulked in the reedbeds at Old Moor from 13th–21st March. A single returned to Old Moor on 12th August, with further sightings on at least 12 dates through until 20th December. Singles then showed at Winterset from 12th–31st October and again from 13th December until the year-end, while a single stayed at Denaby Ings from 13th–23rd December.

Up to three remained at Pugney's CP from the start of the year until 9th March. More unusual was a single on 7th May, after which there were sporadic records of singles in each of the last five months, starting with one on 14th August.

Up to three remained at Fairburn Ings during January, with a single present from 4th–7th April and again on 13th/17th October. After one at Mickletown Ings on 14th January, a single made sporadic appearances at Swillington Ings during January/February. Up to two were then present at Swillington from 20th June until the end of the year. A single appeared briefly at Bilbrough, west of York, on 28th February.

Only the sixth record for the Bradford area lingered at Otley Wetland from 10th January–2nd March; perhaps the same individual then returned on 25th December and remained into the New Year.

Staveley NR hosted a single in January and March, with another in the Nosterfield reedbed from January to at least early June, which was heard booming during the latter part of its stay. Staveley NR then recorded another on 17th July. Up to three returned to winter within the Nosterfield reedbed from 30th October, with all three noted on 27th November and 12th December, with another wintering at Bellflask Quarry from 20th November onwards (the same also visiting High Batts NR on 19th December) and, finally, Staveley NR attracted a single on 21st December.

Only a single male boomed at Blacktoft Sands and just one female successfully nested; she fed extensively at other sites within the Inner Humber, suggesting the drought in 2009 had reduced the amount of food present at Blacktoft. One nearby location also held a single booming male, but no nest was located.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* **A**

O,O,O,O,1

Vagrant; four previous records

Breeds from Iberia and northwest Africa eastwards.

A juvenile was located in Apple Tree Cottage garden on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 15th September (K&MS *et al.*). It was found around midday and spent the afternoon sheltering from a very strong westerly wind. The only previous record from the greater Spurn area related to one on a farm pond in Easington from 30th May until 16th June 1979.

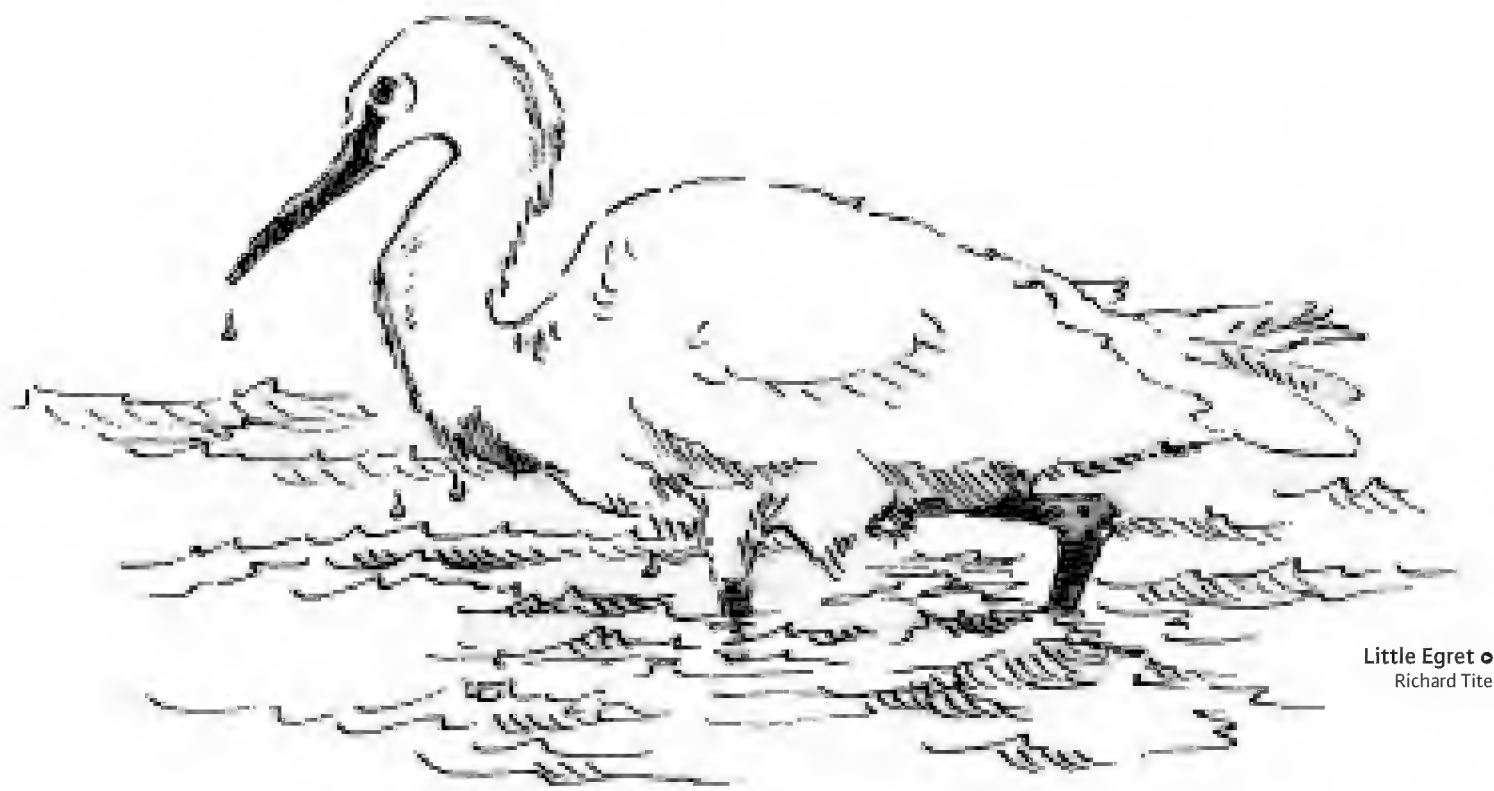
LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in increasing numbers

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France. The species has established colonies in southern England and continues to expand its range.

Early on, up to two lingered at both Paull Holme Strays and Sunk Island during January, a single remained in residence at Swillington Ings at the start of the year and singles appeared at Flixton Carr on 10th/18th January, Spurn on 17th and Winterset from 21st–23rd January.

In the north-west, a single at Gargrave on 1st April was unusual, while the Harrogate district had its best ever year, with 12 individuals recorded from 13th May through until 28th November.



Little Egret
Richard Tite

In the east, it was a record year at Filey, where present almost daily at the Dams from 11th May until 8th September, with a best of five from 31st July–2nd August. It is becoming ever commoner within the Hull Valley, with a best of ten at Paull Holme Strays during August. A total of 729 bird/days at Spurn represented an appreciable increase, with almost daily sightings from 13th May to 24th November. A day record of 19 on 4th July, included 17 flying south through Spurn, while other autumn maxima were 13 on 18th August, 14 on 7th September and 16 on 4th October. Further upstream, five were off Sunk Island on 22nd May.

Up to 14 resided at Blacktoft Sands during August, while other notable inland records included eight at Edderthorpe Flash on 27th June, 12 at Potteric Carr on 8th July and 15 at Swillington Ings during August. A single at Ringstone Edge Res on 30th June represented only the fourth record for Calderdale.

In the final month, singles made sporadic appearances at both Tophill Low and Swillington Ings. Elsewhere, a single flew over Brampton Bierlow on 3rd and two were at Brotherton and a single at Spurn on 5th. After one overflowed Bingley Moor on 10th December, perhaps the same visited Clapham on 12th and Snaygill Ings on 15th. A single dropped in at Beal Carrs on 11th and 31st December. More unusually, a single was 2km north of Burton–in–Lonsdale, in the extreme north–west of the county, on 19th December.

A pair again summered at the 2009 breeding site, but there was no repeat of last year’s success.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* **A** 3,5,5,3,5
Rare spring and summer migrant; 40 previous records (42 individuals)

Breeds from western Europe eastwards to Japan and south to Australia. European birds winter in Mediterranean.

A single was located at 1000hrs at Bretton Park on 20th February (GC *et al.*), with presumably the same relocated at Thrybergh Tip on 27th February; it flew off south at 0805hrs (MRL). The next lingered at Blacktoft Sands on 29th/30th March (MJP *et al.*). More seasonal, a single was photographed as it flew upriver past Boothferry Bridge on both 5th and 8th June (BHu). In the autumn, Firsby Res hosted a single on 9th September which flew west (DWa), while the year’s last record related to one at Bellflask Quarry on 24th October which eventually headed off north–east (BM *et al.*).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **A**
Uncommon resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant
BBS 33/216: –12% (–3) 1995–2009, –37% (–11) 2009–10
Populations appear to be decreasing locally.

The BTO Heronries Census recorded 402 nests at monitored sites, which compares to 379 nests the previous year. Again Bretton Park contained the most occupied nests, with 59 compared to 63 in 2009.

Additional large colonies included 20 nests at Wansford in the Hull Valley, 22 nests in beech, alder and sycamore trees at Wentworth Park, 24 nests in a larch wood at Duncombe Park, 26 pairs at West Burton, 27 nests in scots pine near Hatfield Moors and 31 pairs in larch, scots pine and sycamore trees near Otley. The latter colony contained the same number of pairs as the previous year and 74 young fledged, compared to 80 in 2009. These figures indicated that the inclement weather during 2009/10 had had little detrimental affect on the larger heronries, while improved breeding success at small colonies within Cleveland was also positive.

Monthly Maxima at Old Moor											
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
14	15	12	15	12	12	12	17	21	20	17	8

Coastal passage peaked at Filey during September, with nine present on 10th and a flock of ten heading north over the Bay on 27th. Flamborough logged eight on 24th June, five on 6th August and four on 28th September. Fourteen flew south at Spurn between 20th March and 27th May, while 55 flew south there between 15th June and 6th December, including seven on 27th September.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* **A** 1,0,0,0,2
Rare visitor; 60 previous records (57 birds)
This visitor from southern Europe breeds just across the North Sea in the Netherlands, but remains a rare bird in Yorkshire.

A return to form after three blank years, with one in residence at Tophill Low on 15th/16th May, where it showed well at times (CCS *et al.*). A first–summer was also discovered at Welwick on 15th May and it continued to make sporadic appearances there until 19th (MJP *et al.*).

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* **A** 1,0,2,0,1
Extremely rare visitor; 13 previous records

This migratory species breeds from central Iberia through central Europe to Russia and Siberia, with small numbers in Greece and Turkey, wintering in Africa and South Asia.

A single chose not to linger at Hackforth, near Catterick on 23rd May (MP: NSm); coincidentally, the 2006 individual was also discovered on the same date. The recent long–stayer, initially in the York and then the Spurn area, ensured that this was not as painful a miss as it once would have been.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* **AE**
Scarce migrant; escapes from Harewood confuse status

As with previous years, it is hard to determine which are genuinely wild individuals and which originate from Harewood House.

A single over Otley on 2nd April was the first local record for two years and perhaps evidence that Harewood’s semi–resident birds may have died out or moved on; probably the same then flew over Settle the following day and headed over Farnham GP and Woolley on 10th April. Three flew west over York University on 22nd April (RSS). One accompanied three Buzzards over Littlethorpe on 3rd May, with presumably the same over Queensbury the next day and perhaps again over Boroughbridge on 19th May; two flew north over Wykeham Raptor Viewpoint on 23rd May (KDu).

In the second half of the year, a single rested briefly on a roof top at Holme–on–Spalding Moor on 5th December before heading off south–west.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* **A** 20,40,23,31,30
Amber list: scarce migrant and summer visitor April – September

Breeds in South–east Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population and has recently increased.

A summer–plumaged adult at Edderthorpe Flash on 20th April (DJBa) dropped onto Old Moor briefly the following evening, before leaving east over Bolton Ings at 1905hrs (CHa *et al.*). A single then flew over Tophill Low on 27th May (L&MB). Two headed north–east over Hatfield Moors on 31st May (CCR) and appeared at Blacktoft Sands the next day.

Six graced Blacktoft Sands on 10th June, with a single sporadically on site from 15th–25th June. Two immatures flew north–west up the Humber at Spurn on 12th June (JMT *et al.*), while the following day, an adult and an immature flew north over Spurn (JMT). Also on 13th June, two appeared over Filey Dams and, after being harassed by gulls, both headed off south (C&LB). On 24th June, an immature flew south off Spurn (SE: IS) and another headed north–east over Flamborough (C&PT).

A flock of seven, including four adults, came in off the sea over Spurn and continued south on 2nd July, being seen at Gibraltar Point later (AR *et al.*). Three flew south over Hull on 7th July, with presumably the same, also dropping in at Blacktoft Sands the same day, with a single on sporadic dates at the latter location until 3rd August. In addition, a single headed north–east over New Ellerby on 13th July. A single flew south over the Warren, Spurn on 7th August (JG), before Blacktoft Sands hosted two on 6th/9th September.

HONEY–BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **A** 21,16,67,23, 21
Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant May – September

This long–distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid– to late May, and leaving from mid–August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

A pair in Dalby Forest on 13th May represented the earliest–ever local record. During the breeding season, at least six males and five females were present in the general area, with three pairs each successfully fledging two young. A fourth pair was present, but without evidence of successful breeding. The last sightings related to two juveniles on 9th and an adult on 16th September. In addition, a male displayed at one other site during June.

Migrants included a single in off the sea at Flamborough on 2nd July (PC: BR) and another at Filey on 30th (SHu: FXM: HJW). The only August record involved a single flying south–west over Skipton SW on 18th (RC: GH). Three different individuals, including an adult male, flew south at Spurn at 0950hrs on 3rd September in the company of four Common Buzzards and a Marsh Harrier (AR: RJS *et al.*), one was logged over Oxenhope on 22nd (DCB: HMC) and another flew over Kew Villa at first light on 27th September (AAH). The year’s last record related to a single over Scalby on 13th October (MF).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* AC

Amber list: scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes. BBS 14/216

There was a further increase in the number of breeding pairs and an associated expansion in range, with the results shown in the table. Although there were numerous sightings from many sites, away from the core areas birds are still relatively scarce.

Unsurprisingly, the highest counts were in the Leeds area, with 20 over Kearby on 26th January and at least 25 over silage fields near Eccup Res on 17th June.

Records in parts of the east are increasing, as illustrated by 13 sightings of at least ten individuals in the Scarborough area, including singles over Staxton and Cloughton on 4th June, Cayton on 28th June and Forge Valley on 22nd July. It is also possible that some coastal records may relate to continental migrants, so a single in off the sea and then south at Spurn at 0720hrs on 21st March and a single that flew north at Grimston on 8th May were noteworthy.

Probably resulting from high winter mortality, a small number of the regularly monitored nesting territories were unoccupied, but despite this, there was a continued increase in range across Yorkshire. A total of 84 breeding pairs were located, including 17 new pairs, but given the increasing population, it is likely that the actual number of breeding pairs is much higher. Overall productivity improved slightly compared with 2009, with a mean of 2.10 fledged young per successful pair. It is disappointing to report continued illegal persecution, with two poisoned by alphachloralose and two dead chicks found in a nest in North Yorkshire, poisoned by carbofuran. Six Yorkshire Red Kites died from secondary rodenticide poisoning and post mortems of individuals that had died from other causes all tested positive for difenacoum and bromadiolone.

Minimum number of breeding pairs in Yorkshire in 2010

Area	No. of breeding pairs located	No. of pairs bred	No. of successful pairs	Min. no. of fledged young
West Yorkshire	43	42	40	85
North Yorkshire	33	27	23	46
East Yorkshire	8	8	7	16
Totals	84	77	70	147

Ref: *Red Kite Newsletter* No. 12. Yorkshire Red Kites.



Red Kite • Ray Scally

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* A

O,O,O,O,1

Rare migrant; 37 previous individuals

Breeds from Iceland to East Asia, with a re-introduced population in western Scotland.

A radio-tagged immature, originating from the reintroduction scheme in eastern Scotland, appeared at a number of sites during early April. First seen at Leeming Bar on 3rd, the following day it was photographed just north of Allerton Park, near Boroughbridge (TWi) before it slowly passed over Flamborough from 1255–1335hrs and then headed back inland (B&JAB *et al.*). It then remained unseen for several days until 7th, when it flew south over Tophill Low at 1015hrs and later Blacktoft Sands (MJP: PCS *et al.*), before crossing south over the Humber, only to head back north over Broomfleet, Whitton Sands (GPC *et al.*) and South Cave (GAD) later the same day. After lingering at Whitton Sands until 1015hrs on 8th April, it disappeared until the following day, when it was reported from Stockton-on-the-Forest. Finally, on 10th it flew over Pockstones Moor (IRC: AJ) and nearby Barden Scale (RC: GH) in the south-east of the Yorkshire Dales NP, with subsequent sightings over several sites in Lancashire and Cumbria, presumably as it returned to eastern Scotland.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* A

Amber list: scarce but increasing breeder; uncommon migrant. BBS BBS 2/216

This opportunistic species has increased in numbers in the county, and although most migrate south as far as southern Africa, a few birds now over-winter.

There was a further increase in records, including the numbers wintering. In the early part of the year there were two at Sunk Island in January and February, one in March and eight in April with a maximum of five at Blacktoft Sands in January and February, four in March and up to ten in April. Elsewhere, other records included singles at North Cave on 30th January and on four dates in February. A female passing through Old Moor on 24th February represented the earliest-ever record for the Barnsley area, with further singles at Went Ings on 11th February and an immature male at Thorne Moors on three dates in January and one date in February, with two present on 15th March.

It was another good year for passage along the coast, with an increase in sightings in the Scarborough area, 13 records at Filey between 22nd March and the end of May and four at Flamborough between 25th–30th April, nine in May and a single in June. There were exceptional numbers at Spurn, with both the spring and autumn maxima being broken. Following the first on 7th March, 71 had flown south and nine in off the sea by 3rd June, including eight on 30th April, 11 on 1st May, 11 on 16th and four on 23rd May.

The number of inland records continues to slowly increase, with two records in May at Southfield Res, a minimum of nine in the Sheffield area and one spring and three autumn records at Winterset. It was also another good year further north in the Pennines, with two records in each half of the year in the Huddersfield area, three spring and one autumn record in Halifax, two records near Bradford, but an excellent year around Harrogate, with 20 spring and 14 autumn records.

The number breeding increased, with a minimum of 33 territorial pairs. A male nest building at Old Moor in late April was joined by a female for a few days, before disappearing at the end of the month and a pair displayed at Thorne Moors in April, with a second female present on several dates in April and May, with a juvenile seen on 17th July. In the Hull Valley, there were between three and eleven territorial pairs, with a pair fledging two young at one site. It was another good year at Blacktoft Sands, with 12 active nests and at least 26 young reared. There was an additional pair at Faxfleet Ponds and another pair near Gilberdyke represented the first successful local nesting attempt on arable. There were an additional two pairs near Goole, two pairs at Broomfleet Brick Ponds and single pairs at Saltmarshe Delph and Haverfield Quarries.

In addition, individuals lingered at several sites during the summer, including Swillington Ings, where there were records in every month from February to November; a female lingered at Potter Brompton Carr between 23rd May and early September and recorded regularly at both North Cave and Potteric Carr during the summer. In the York area there were records from Melbourne, North Duffield Carrs, Clifton Backies, East Cottingwith, Wheldrake Ings, Heslington and Bubwith.

Autumn passage along the coast included four records at Filey, while there were ten bird/days at Flamborough from 26th July until 30th September, including three in the Grange Farm area on 8th August. At Spurn, 63 flew south and six more U-turned between 21st July and 10th November, including eight on 17th and four on 25th August, with a new day record of 16 on 15th September.

During the latter part of the year, notable records included four at Thorne Moors on 7th November and up to six at Blacktoft during the month, with the first ever December record at Spurn on 20th.

HEN HARRIER <i>Circus cyaneus</i> A Red list: rare breeder; uncommon to scarce migrant and winter visitor Numbers breeding on upland moors across England are perilously low, primarily due to illegal persecution by some gamekeepers on grouse moorland. Numbers were low once again in both winter periods and during the breeding season, despite large areas of prime nesting habitat within the county. The North Humber roosts held three males and an immature female, with an additional female roosting on the Holderness coast in the first winter period. These probably account for individuals noted intermittently at Spurn, Grimston, Sunk Island, Paul Holme Strays and Welton Waters. There were also occasional records of singles at Blacktoft Sands, with two on 23rd January. In addition, singles appeared intermittently at Thorne Moors in January, with three on 12th, and present again on single dates in February and March. Elsewhere, there were singles in January on four dates at Long Nab, on Silsden Moor on 12th, Margrove Ponds on 19th, Cloughton on 23rd and at Scaling Dam on 29th. February records included singles at Cromer Point on 6th, Sherburn Carr on 7th, Scaling Dam and Wintersett on 13th, Sleddale on 20th and two ringtails at Broomhead Moor on 26th. Singles were also at the latter site on 8th March, with other records from Stony Marl Moor on 2nd, Blakey Topping on 15th and up to two around Hatfield Moors during the month. Research by Natural England has shown that many satellite-tagged birds spend all winter on high ground, particularly in the Yorkshire Dales, where there are growing concerns about low winter survival. There were only nine records during the year near Halifax, including ringtails on 14th January and 23rd March, with 11 records in the Bradford area, including singles at Barden Scale on 4th March and 2nd and 4th April. There were also records in April at Agden Side on 4th, a male at Fylingdales Moor on 12th, a male at Langdale on 16th and 18th, Hotham Carrs on 20th, with a single at Flamborough on 29th. May records included singles at Ilton on 11th and Emlin Ridge on 22nd. The only records from areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat included a sub-adult briefly displaying at a site in the south-east Dales on 4th April, with perhaps the same again on 18th May, a female that flew straight through Colsterdale on 25th April and a male in Burbage Valley from 27th April until 1st May. In June, a female visited a site near Halifax on 2nd, a single appeared in Colsterdale on 3rd and an adult male headed north over Deer Hill on 6th. A single returned to Blacktoft Sands on the early date of 9th July, with a ringtail at Glaisdale on 17th, but there were no further records until August, when singles were at Emlin Ridge on 1st, Langsett Res on 15th, High Ash Head Moor, Harrogate on 17th and Dallowgill on 28th. Thorne Moors hosted a single on 30th August, with sporadic sightings thereafter through until December. In September, there were two in the Marsden/Pule Hill area of Huddersfield on 5th, when a ringtail also appeared at Middlestown, singles at Stannington on 9th, at Swillington Ings on 19th, Nosterfield NR on 28th, Wintersett on 30th and, finally, one stayed at South Gare from 29th September until 11th October. Additional October records included singles at Scaling Dam, two at Ewden Height and a single in the Atwick and Bewholme area on 7th, at Stannington, Sheffield on 9th, Redmires and Flamborough on 10th, Liverton Moor on 16th, one in-off the sea at Filey on 18th and singles at Leathley on 20th and Wheldrake Ings on 24th/25th October. In addition, singles were noted at sites near Bradford from 12th-15th October and there were up to two in the north of the Halifax recording area from 21st October through until 24th November. There were two different individuals in Sleddale in November, one on 1st, that was missing a tail, and another on 6th. Elsewhere, there were singles at Flamborough sporadically from 7th-11th, at Hornsea Mere on 13th, Barmston and Redmires on 14th, at Strines/Howden Edge on 24th, Leven Canal on 27th and at Upper Commons and Emlin Moor, Sheffield and Eastby Cragg, Bradford on 28th. December records included singles at Swillington Ings from 4th-11th, Midhope also on 11th and at Flamborough on 14th. Post-breeding passage at Spurn included juveniles south on 21st August, north-west at Sammy's Point on 27th and a ring-tail in off the sea, then west up the Humber, on 28th. In September, a male flew south on 15th and a juvenile stayed at the Point on 27th, 28th and 30th, with possibly the same at Beacon Ponds on 29th. In October, a male was present on 10th, a ringtail flew south on 11th, a male flew south on 13th, and two ringtails flew north together on 30th. A ringtail appeared in the Triangle on 6th November, and a male was seen on 7th, 10th and 25th December. Also on the Holderness coast, a single at Grimston on 3rd December represented the only site record in the latter half of the year, with additional sightings at Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea on several dates between October and December.	MONTAGU'S HARRIER <i>Circus pygargus</i> A 4,3,7,8,8 Amber list: rare to scarce migrant: has bred The rarest and most migratory of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the national population has recovered from just one pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia wintering south of the Sahara. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports. Easily the highlight, a pair bred successfully on the North Yorkshire Moors, the first such attempt since 2007. Despite all five eggs hatching, only two young successfully fledged. A first-year flew south at Spurn at 0915hrs on 1st May (RH: AR <i>et al.</i>) on a good day for raptor passage. A male remained in the Strines Corner/Ringinglow area, west of Sheffield, from 17th-24th May (JHor <i>et al.</i>). Hatfield Moors then hosted a ringtail from 24th-26th May (SF: AM <i>et al.</i>) and, finally, an adult male flew south at Spurn at 1010hrs on 23rd June (AAH). GOSHAWK <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> AC Scarce resident breeder and passage migrant. BBS 2/216 With few records received of what can be a very secretive species, the true status of this magnificent raptor is difficult to determine. From the relatively few records received, there was a minimum of 33 territorial pairs, but this is clearly an underestimate of the actual population. A single pair was present in the far north and it was a successful season on the North Yorkshire Moors, where at least 20 pairs are in residence. There were three confirmed persecution incidents in the latter area, with one shot, a second poisoned and a nest site deliberately disturbed. Displaying males were also noted at a minimum of two sites in the York area. Five monitored pairs near Sheffield successfully fledged broods of three, three, three, two and one young respectively. In the Barnsley area, there were two territorial pairs in the uplands, while the sole record from the east related to a single at Wintersett on 5th May. In the Huddersfield area, there was one territorial pair present, but only four accepted records outside the breeding season, presumed to be the result of high levels of persecution in nearby areas of the Peak District. There were seven proven sightings near Halifax between 7th April and 2nd June. In the Bradford area, adults were present in suitable breeding habitat at two sites and there was a slight increase in records around Harrogate, with a female at Gouthwaite Res on 14th March, a male nearby on 4th April, a female at Lingham Lake on the latter date, a female at Gouthwaite Res and a male in Colsterdale on 1st November. There were few records from elsewhere, but these included an escaped juvenile at Hemlington Lake on 29th August. SPARROWHAWK <i>Accipiter nisus</i> A Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 23/216 The population of this widespread but probably under-reported species, after a period of rapid recovery, is now static or still increasing slowly. In the east, it remains widespread in the Scarborough area and stable in the Hull Valley, but there was an increase in records around Huddersfield and Halifax, that suggest a slight population increase. The species was reported to be stable in the Bradford area and remains relatively common near Barnsley. None of the records at Scarborough were attributed to migrants, but an increase in records at Flamborough included six on 18th April. It was a poor spring at Spurn, with only 14 logged south between 27th March and 1st May, all relating to singles, apart from five on the first and last dates. In the autumn, Flamborough logged 14 on 28th September and eight on 17th October. At Spurn there was a minimum of 43 south and a further three in off between 28th June and 20th November, including five on 3rd September and eight on 19th October. Inland, a total of 16 at Staveley NR on 25th October included a number thought to be on southward passage. BUZZARD <i>Buteo buteo</i> A Increasing resident breeder; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 38/216 The national and local breeding populations continue to increase as a result of range expansion, and it can now be seen throughout the county. Found in 13 more BBS squares this year than 2009. A further increase in numbers and range was reported, as the population heads towards a natural density and continues to occupy its former range. There were at least 15 breeding pairs in the Scarborough area, including five pairs around the Wykeham Estate and there was a dramatic increase in sightings at Filey, presumably due
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to an increase in the breeding population on the nearby Wolds. Despite widespread sightings in the Hull Valley, there were only four confirmed breeding pairs.

Further south-west, there were numerous reports around Rotherham, with a peak of 22 from Roche Abbey on 7th March. This species is now well established in the Huddersfield area, with records from over 70 sites, but only one confirmed breeding pair and probable breeding at one other site. It was a similar situation in the Halifax area, where there was also an increase in records, including three pairs that were thought to have bred and one possible pair. The population is still increasing around Leeds, with reports from nearly 50 sites, although numbers are now leveling off at some. In Upper Wharfedale, 15 nests were located, which equaled the previous highest total; however, productivity was very low, with only 1.5 fledged young per breeding pair.

There was light spring passage along the coast, with records from Flamborough including one on 4th March, three on 11th and one on 19th March, followed by singles on 1st April, 17th and 18th. There were also two on 2nd May, one on 19th and three on 23rd May and, finally, one on 3rd June. At Spurn one headed south on 11th February, one U-turned on 11th March, whilst in April, one flew south on 4th, singles flew north and south passing each other on 9th, two flew south on 17th, followed by another the next day. May records at Spurn included a single on 1st, one flew south before turning west up river on 22nd, with one or the same heading south on 23rd and a single flew north-west on 27th May.

There was, however, a good autumn passage on the coast, including a remarkable movement on 3rd September. At Flamborough, August produced singles on 3rd, 8th, two on 17th and lone individuals on 20th and 22nd. Three singles during September were par for the course, but an influx on 3rd was anything but. Flamborough logged a total of 33 during the day, including a flock of 21 that appeared to come in off the sea at 1255hrs, gain height over the Headland, before drifting off south-west. At Spurn, 72 flew south on the same date between 0950hrs and 1530hrs, including a flock of 14. To put this movement into perspective, the previous observatory day record had been seven in October 1994. In addition, a further 12 over Easington never made it as far south as the Observatory Recording Area. At Flamborough, there were eight on 4th September and, during October, two on 2nd, one on 6th and a single on 9th, with 24 bird/days during the second half of the month, including eight on 17th and four on 18th October. Later in the year, a single appeared on the Headland on 1st November, with others on 5th/6th and 30th December. Subsequent to the influx at Spurn, the only other records for the peninsula related to two south and one that U-turned on 9th September, with a further single on 7th October. The only indication of the influx away from the coastal strip came at Tophill Low, where 26 overflowed the site on 5th September, unsurprisingly a local record day count.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* **A** 1,4,7,5,34
Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts.

An impressive influx started on 17th October, with singles at Buckton (NCD), Flamborough (JAB *et al.*) and four different individuals at Spurn: one first seen at Sammy's Point slowly flew south down the peninsula and left towards Lincolnshire at 1155hrs (JMT) and was followed by singles all coming in off the sea south of the Warren and continuing north-west past the gas terminal at 1300hrs (AJS), 1315hrs (TMC) and 1340hrs (RJS).

The following day, one in the 'Potato Fields' at Spurn flew off north-west at 1030hrs, eventually heading over Easington (AJS *et al.*), with singles the same day flying north at Filey in the early afternoon (LG: FXM), north-west over Sunk Island (JW) and north over Grimston (TI).

There was only one record on 19th October, a single south across the Humber at Spurn at 1300hrs (AAH: SDW). Sleddale again proved to be the favoured site, with two juveniles from 20th October until 10th November (MCor *et al.*) and four juveniles present on at least 28th October (CD *et al.*); presumably one of these individuals visited nearby Scaling Dam on 27th (MCor). Elsewhere, a juvenile flew over Kirklevington on 20th (CBI: WI), followed by another at Flamborough on 23rd (NC *et al.*). On 24th October singles appeared at Barmston, with the same again there on 30th (AMH: PR: JAS *et al.*), Blacktoft Sands (KDu *et al.*) and Leven Carrs, with the latter still present on 29th (RJ: BEI *et al.*). Singles were at Grimston on 25th October (TI), at Hatfield Moors from 26th October through until 24th November (CCR *et al.*) and another flew south past Beacon Ponds and later west past Sammy's Point at 1150hrs on 27th October (JC: MJP *et al.*). On 30th singles were at Winscar (D&SP), Grimston (TI) and Buckton, with the latter still present the following day (MT *et al.*).

One flew west at Filey on 7th November (NPS), whilst inland singles were noted over Silsden also on 7th (J&FT), north over Grassington on 10th (IRC), Gouthwaite Res on 13th (PJC *et al.*) and one lingering in the Kelk area on 14th (RJA). On the latter date two were discovered between Bilsdale and Bransdale (DBY), with presumed to be one of these in nearby Bilsdale on 16th. Finally, Spurn's eighth of the year came in off the sea at the Point at 1120hrs and then headed north over Sammy's Point on 20th November (PW_r *et al.*).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **A**
Amber list: scarce but regular passage migrant

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.

It was a relatively quite year for passage in both spring and autumn. The first appeared at Hornsea Mere on the relatively early date of 12th March, followed by Bradford's earliest ever at Barden Scale on 17th. Singles were then noted at Tophill Low and New Kingswood on 21st, Addingham Moorside on 23rd, Rother Valley CP on 24th, Ringinglow, Walshaw Dean Res and York on 27th, Ellerton Ings, Redmires Res and Rother Valley CP on 28th, Grinton on 30th and Langold CP on 31st.

Along the coastal strip, there were three spring records near Scarborough and three in spring and two in autumn at Filey. In the Hull Valley, there was a single in April, three in May, one in August, two in September, plus singles sporadically at Tophill Low from 25th-30th September and Hornsea Mere from 21st-26th of the same month. It was a good year at Spurn, starting with singles on 27th May and 3rd, 5th and 18th June. Autumn proved better, with singles on 29th and 30th August, 6th September, two singles on 11th, one on 14th, two on 15th and one on 28th September.

Further west, Southfield Res hosted two singles in May, while near Rotherham, there were three records in April, singles in May, June and August, together with three in September. Spring produced six records from Barnsley and only one in autumn, while there were 12 spring records from Sheffield and three from there post-breeding.

There were four spring records in the Leeds area, with a single at Swillington on 4th/5th September. Fairburn Ings logged eight records between April and June, with a further six sightings between 31st August and 11th September. There were five spring and four autumn records from the York area, including a juvenile at Crockley Hill from 4th-10th October.

Huddersfield's sole record flew over Brighouse on 6th April, with three spring records from Halifax. A better year near Bradford, with 20 sightings, mainly from Barden Scale, starting with singles on 2nd April, 7th and 17th and on six dates between 13th and 27th May, 14th/15th June and 18th/19th August. In the Harrogate area there was a slight increase in sightings compared to the previous year, with ten during spring and three in autumn.

Late records included singles at Spurn on 8th and 21st October, the latter missing several primaries.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant.
BBS 50/216: -33% (-13) 1995-2009, -59% (-5) 2009-10

National and local survey results have shown a steady decline, probably due to agricultural intensification, and although there had been some recovery locally since 2002, the figures for 2010 are depressing.

Spring passage was light at Flamborough, with 19 bird/days in March, 12 in April, 32 in May and 32 in June, with maxima of three in each month. It was a similar situation at Spurn, with 12 heading south between 31st March and 5th June, with one in off the sea on 7th April.

The population appeared widespread around Scarborough, with numerous records from the northern outskirts of Hull and in the Beverley area but it appears to be becoming increasingly scarce at Pulfen & High Eske. There were widely dispersed breeding records around Barnsley, where the record day count was broken on 4th July, when 27, including 17 juveniles, were in the Old Moor area on 4th July. The only other notable count related to 15 at Ewden Height on 9th August. There were records from 60 sites in the Huddersfield area and the population also appeared stable around Leeds.

In the autumn, presumed migrants at Filey included two in off the sea on 23rd September and two similarly on 11th October. At Flamborough, there were 34 bird/days in August, 35 in September, 73 in October and 16 in November, with up to nine in a day during September/October. It was a good autumn at Spurn, with 128 south and four in off the sea between 26th June and 3rd November, including an excellent day's passage on 15th September, when 54 flew south, most low over the sea. Additional maxima included nine on 11th September and eight on 6th October.

The cold spell at the year end was reported to have affected numbers in many areas and it will be interesting to see if any notable population declines are reported in 2011.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* **A** 1,1,6,2,1
Rare visitor; 72 previous records

Breeds intermittently from the wooded steppes of Eastern Europe to the Baikal region and winters in South-West Africa.

The year's sole record related to a female, observed hawking insects, over Bolton Abbey on 11th June (KM). Unsurprisingly, this represented only the second record for the Bradford Ornithological Group recording area, following the first in 1992.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 5/216
Numbers breeding on the Yorkshire uplands appear to be declining; numbers are augmented during the winter months.

This species was scarce in all areas during the first winter period, with only two records from the coastal strip in the north-east in January and only three records at Scarborough and two at Filey during the same month. At Flamborough, there were records on three dates in January, with additional singles on 27th February, 1st March, 9th and 16th May. There were occasional sightings at Spurn in January and February, but almost daily sightings in March, with singles recorded on 12 dates in April and three dates in May, with the last on 17th. Away from the coast, there were widely scattered records of singles, including twelve records in the Hull Valley, the majority in the first few months.

A total of 41 breeding or territory holding pairs were reported from the uplands. In the north, there was a single male at Guisborough Moor on 26th June. In addition, 41 home ranges were checked in the North Yorkshire Moors NP, 17 of which were occupied, with 16 pairs fledging 40 young. In the Sheffield area, there were two probable and two confirmed pairs. Immediately to the north, one pair fledged two young at a site near Barnsley and a further pair alarm-calling and mobbing a Buzzard indicated breeding. It was another poor year in the Huddersfield area, with records from 14 sites, predominately during the second half of the year and there were no reports of breeding activity. There were five territorial pairs on the Halifax moors, but with only one confirmed breeding pair, fledging three young; an additional pair may have attempted to breed in the north-west, but a large moorland fire probably forced them to leave. Despite minimal coverage in the Yorkshire Dales, six occupied territories were located, with four pairs fledging ten young. There were also two sites with singles and three other territorial pairs noted.

Numbers in the latter half of the year were also low, with only light autumn passage, including singles in August and three records in September at Long Nab, Scarborough. There were very few records in the Filey area, but a male and female stayed throughout most of October. It was an average autumn at Flamborough, with two on 27th July, followed by five records in August and 12 on nine dates in September. October proved more productive, with three present on 2nd, 9th and 18th, together with another five singles, while Flamborough's last came on 12th and 17th December. The first post-breeding record at Spurn occurred on 27th July, with singles on 12 dates in August and 16 dates in September, including two on 19th. There were daily records of up to two in the observatory recording area during the latter three months, with four on 5th and three on 6th October. Elsewhere, there were widely scattered records from a number of sites, but numbers remained very low.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor, scarce to uncommon passage migrant. BBS 2/216
It is thought that increasing numbers of this visitor from tropical Africa breed in the county, but its secretive breeding behaviour makes detection difficult. The number of sightings each year increases, but proof of breeding is difficult to obtain.

There were a number of records in April, starting with singles at Langsett Wood near Sheffield on 16th, Wheldrake on 20th, Swillington's earliest ever on 21st, Hornsea Mere the next day, two at Thorne Moors on 23rd and singles at Flamborough on 24th, Sunk Island on 26th and, finally, Filey on 28th.

Coastal records included five sightings around Filey between May and August and, likewise at Flamborough, there were singles on 30th April, 2nd June, 11th July and in the last week of July, including a juvenile at Northcliff Marsh on 31st. It was poor year at Spurn, with only 21 bird/days, with only occasional records from 16th May until 23rd September, including two on 20th May.

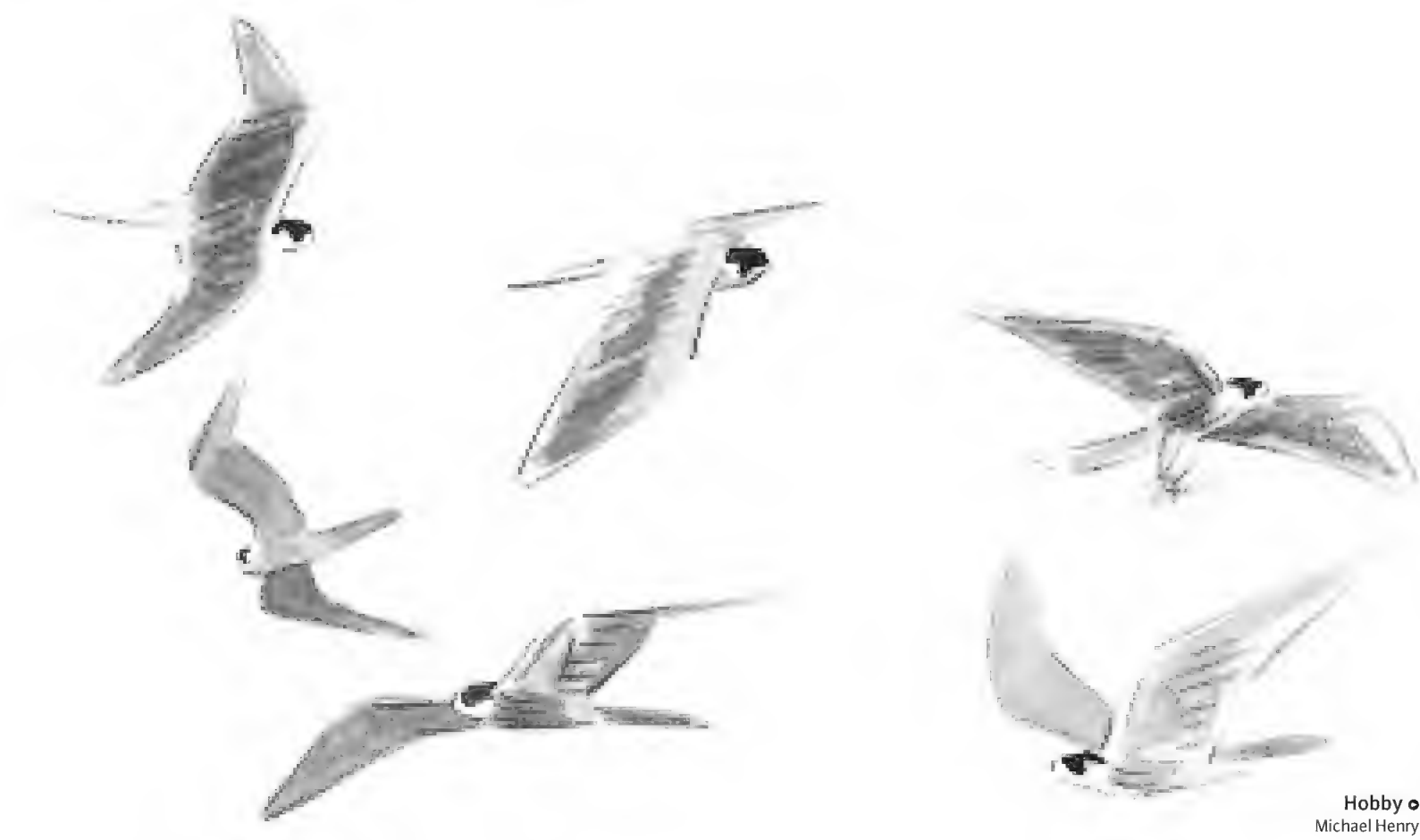
Following the change in criteria for which the Rare Breeding Birds Panel determine possible breeding pairs, the number falling within this category has dramatically increased. There was a minimum of 25 possible, four probable and six confirmed breeding pairs. Multiple records indicated potential breeding in the Troutsdale and Langdale Forest area, with probable breeding at four sites in the Hull Valley at Kelk, Leven, Tophill Low and Hornsea Mere. At North Cave, there were records on 17 dates between 3rd May and 19th September, including two on 18th and 20th August. There was a pair present at Skipwith Common between 21st April and 12th May. Within the wider York area, records were received from 14 sites, including single male and females at East Cottingwith over the summer, a single at Clifton Ings on two dates in June and a presumed family party of two adults and two juveniles at Castle Howard on 12th September. Further south, there were singles at Southfield Res on four dates in May, two on 22nd and one on 25th June, singles on three dates in July, two in August and two on 12th and 14th September.

Given the multiple records at Thorne Moors, including a remarkable 20 on both 20th June and 3rd July, it is difficult to determine how many pairs may have bred in the surrounding area, but an adult and juvenile were noted on 30th July. Likewise, several summered on Hatfield Moors, and although not proved, breeding by at least one pair was likely. At Potteric Carr, there were up to two present sporadically between 15th May and 16th September. There was one confirmed breeding pair in the Rotherham area, with suspected breeding at a second site. Near Sheffield, breeding was confirmed at three sites, together with two juveniles at Ulley Brook Bog in September, and considered possible at two others. There was a further breeding pair in the Barnsley area and, near Halifax, an adult and first summer were present at one site on 21st June, with one still present later in the month.

There were regular sightings at Swillington Ings from 21st April until mid-September and although none bred at Fairburn Ings, there were regular sightings from 1st May, with a notable peak in activity during the first week of July.

Further north, there were regular records from Barden Scale and singles at Staveley NR, Farnham GP and Nosterfield NR during the breeding season, with a juvenile there on 21st August and two un-aged individuals on 28th August and 5th September. A pair fledged at least one young on the eastern edge of the northern Dales.

Autumn passage along the coast included singles at Flamborough on seven dates in August, together with two on 8th and 17th and singles on the Outer Head on 7th, 10th, 15th and 22nd September. There were also singles at Long Nab on 8th, Scalby Mills Road on 9th September, and what was probably the same adult at Filey on 28th September and 2nd October. Additional October records included a juvenile on Scarborough South Cliff on 2nd, one flying south at Spurn on 6th and at North Cave on 7th. However, the last record related to an incredibly late individual reported from Gouthwaite Res on 1st November.



PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder and winter visitor. BBS 2/216
The population is probably slowly increasing. There is a stark contrast in its fortunes regionally, with an increasing number of records from lowland areas, but many traditional upland nesting sites on managed grouse moors are now no longer occupied.

A total of 56 confirmed and probable breeding pairs included one pair that fledged two young on a man-made structure. There were two pairs on the sea cliffs in the north-east, while two pairs each fledged two young in the North Yorkshire Moors NP. There were four pairs in the Scarborough area, including three young that fledged at Castle Hill, a pair at Filey that fledged two young, two pairs in the Bempton/Speeton area, three pairs at Flamborough, two of which bred successfully, and one pair that failed in Bridlington. There were three pairs in the Yorkshire Wolds, a pair hatched young on Thorpe Power Station, but failed due to one of the adults disappearing, and a pair lingered on pylons near Hull from the start of the year until the end of July.

At least 12 pairs bred in the Sheffield area, but no breeding reported from around Barnsley. Near Huddersfield, breeding took place at three sites; a pair raising one young at an active landfill site, a pair fledged a single juvenile, which was a second nesting attempt from a recently robbed site nearby, and, finally, a pair raised four young at the third site. In addition, a pair displayed near another known breeding site near Huddersfield in early April. There were also four confirmed pairs in the Halifax area, all laying eggs, with displaying adults at two other sites and a pair fledged four young in Keighley and four young fledged from another well-established site in the general area. Around Leeds two pairs bred successfully, with another probable pair, and two adults remained in the city centre during March until May. A total of 27 sites were checked in the Yorkshire Dales, but only ten were occupied, with 14 young fledging from six successful nesting attempts. All successful nests were situated away from the managed grouse moors.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* **A**
Scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor

Breeds in swamps and marshes, but more widely distributed across wetland habitats during the winter months. During the first winter period, there were widespread records of up to two at suitable wetlands, with five at Coatham Marsh, five at Pugney’s CP and six at Bolehill Flash during January. Peak counts at sites near Barnsley included six at Winterset and ten at Old Moor. Four were in residence at Fairburn Ings and, further north, four were near Skipton and Nosterfield Reedbed sheltered seven on 1st January.

The only spring coastal migrants reported were singles at Flamborough on 27th March and Filey on 8th April. A total of 73 territorial/breeding pairs were recorded, with Blacktoft Sands again the key site with 22 singing/territorial pairs and several broods/fledged young reported. At least two pairs bred at Saltmarshe Delph, with at least one double-brooded. Two were present on Thorne Moors from May to July and at least one summered on neighbouring Hatfield Moors. Potteric Carr hosted one confirmed and two probable pairs and Thorpe Marsh attracted a further pair. Near York, four were calling at Skipwith Common, while the Lower Derwent hosted eight calling males, with five juveniles noted subsequently.

In the south-west there were two calling at Healey Mills NR on 29th May and another at Bolehill Flash on 22nd June. Near Barnsley, there were 15 territorial pairs in the Old Moor area, including ten pairs on the RSPB reserve, where at least four young were observed, two territorial males at both Bolton Ings and Gypsy Marsh, with one young at the latter site, and a recently fledged juvenile at Broomhill Flash. Four territories were located at Wilthorpe Marsh, one at Carlton Marsh and at least two at Winterset, with young heard calling there during June and July.

In the Leeds area, calling males were noted at Lowther Lake, Swillington Ings and near Skelton Lake from April to August. Adults were also in residence at both Fairburn Ings and Snaygill Ings throughout the summer, with no evidence of breeding. However, adults accompanied two young at Staveley NR on 22nd June.

There were fewer records in the second winter period, although counts included nine in the Winterset area, eight at Old Moor, four at both Fairburn Ings and Holme-on-Spalding Moor and three around Pugney’s CP.

Coastal records included an adult at Spurn on 6th August, with singles seen there almost daily to early November, including three on 9th October, 6th and 15th November, with occasional records to the year-end. Elsewhere, there were singles at Flamborough on 2nd October and 1st November and a juvenile at Filey Dams on 6th November. There was a notable displacement along the coast during the December cold snap, including singles at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 20th and 22nd, Scalby Beck on 20th and Burton Riggs on 31st. Singles also appeared in two different Filey gardens during the month.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **A**
Amber list: rare occasional breeder; rare summer visitor and migrant.

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm.

It proved to be a disappointing year after the riches of 2009, both in terms of calling males and, more especially, autumn migrants. In the Lower Derwent Valley, there were five calling males during the spring/summer. Elsewhere, Thorne Moors hosted a calling male on 12th and 27th June (PMi).

The only autumn migrant appeared in the Point Dunes at Spurn on 7th September (AR).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare occasional breeder, summer visitor and passage migrant

The vast majority breed in north-west Scotland, especially on the Inner/Outer Hebrides. After a long-term decline, the UK population has doubled over the last five years to 1300 singing males.

The Lower Derwent Valley hosted three calling males over the spring/summer, with another at Beswick in the Hull Valley for at least two days in late July (PCa).

The only autumn record related to a single that dropped into the field behind Rose Cottage, Easington on 9th October (SJ).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* **A**
Common to abundant resident breeder; some immigration in autumn/winter

BBS 44/216: +62% (+13) 1995–2009, –33% (–14) 2009–10
Very commonly encountered in areas containing wetland habitats; some northern breeders migrate to western and southern Europe. The impact of recent hard winters was evident this year.

This species remains widespread in all suitable wetlands, but few notable counts received. During the first quarter, maxima included 36 at Hemlington Lake in January, 22 at Snaygill Ings in February and 24 at Potteric Carr in March.

There was no obvious change in breeding status. There were widespread records from the Hull Valley, with notable counts of 23 on the Driffeld Canal on 1st February and 33 at Tophill Low NR on 28th July. The population remains common and widespread in the Leeds area, with 50 pairs breeding within the Lower Aire Valley around Skelton Lake/Lowther Lake. Fairburn hosted at least 11 breeding pairs, with regular counts of up to 60 and a peak of 88 during August.

At least 50 pairs bred around Old Moor, producing a minimum of 142 young, and there were 28 pairs in the Winterset area. A census of wetland sites near Barnsley on 19th September produced 37 at Winterset, 40 at Edderthorpe Flash and a new Barnsley maximum of 245 at Old Moor, with at least 215 still present there on 14th November.

COOT *Fulica atra* **A**
Fairly common resident breeder; some immigration in winter. BBS 17/216

The population of this Palearctic species is probably stable in line with national trends. Numbers in winter are swollen by immigrants from northwest Europe, whilst it breeds in varying numbers on most suitable wetland sites from small ponds to large bodies of water.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hay-a-Park GP	360	68	35	–	–	–	–	–	190	114	141	143
Hornsea Mere	0	650	760	–	–	–	–	780	2500	–	875	126
Nosterfield NR	68	65	77	72	79	106	109	47	6	2	3	0
Malham Tarn	10	32	35	25	26	26	45	200	300	150	70	10
North Cave	160	152	108	–	–	–	–	–	–	138	153	59
Old Moor	474	291	290	290	225	235	589	714	170	701	723	727
Pugney’s CP	400	247	183	60	58	67	144	227	250	287	209	324
Tophill Low	1857	160	103	40	63	91	–	–	–	–	–	440
Winterset	324	252	151	83	72	152	205	342	700	917	947	1056

The Hornsea Mere maximum occurred on 18th September. Elsewhere, there were 202 at Thrybergh CP in early February and 581 at Rother Valley CP in mid-December, but overall numbers were down in the Huddersfield area. In Upper Wharfedale, there were sightings at a record 17 sites, including 200 at Knotford Nook in both winter periods and a peak of 178 at Otley Wetlands in January. In the Harrogate area, Farnham GP, Flasks Lake, Hay-a-Park GP and Ripon RC/Nicholson’s Lagoon all hosted in excess of 300 during the year.

More significant breeding records included 77 pairs around Old Moor, fledging at least 246 young, 51 pairs at Winterset Res, 45 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 32 pairs at Blacktoft Sands and 24 pairs at Potteric Carr. Eighteen sites in the Leeds area hosted breeding pairs, including 50 at Swillington Ings. Fairburn recorded a notable post-breeding tally of 1157 on 14th November, but in many areas, numbers declined as water bodies froze during the severe winter weather.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* **A** 41,5,29,30,33

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March.

In March a single circled over Ecclesall Woods, Sheffield on 2nd, with one heading out to sea off Flamborough the same day. Another flew east at Flamborough on 19th March, with presumably the same heading north-east over Filey Bay later that day.

April proved to be the peak month, starting with two over Silsden Res and nearby Winterburn Res on 7th, two over Swillington Ings two days later drifted off north-east at 0955hrs; presumably the same duo then flew north at Staveley NR at 1140hrs and Nosterfield NR at 1230hrs. On 10th April, three flew north at Tophill Low NR and later appeared over Driffild. The next day, two flew low over Flasks Lake, before heading south-west over Nosterfield NR at 1145hrs, then passing high to the south-east over Winterset at 1335hrs and Old Moor at 1415hrs. Four flew south-west over Pulfin & High Eske on 13th April and, presumably the same, appeared at Wheldrake on 14th. The next day two flew low between Newby Hall and Littlethorpe near Ripon, whilst on 18th, two flew south over Kilham in South Yorkshire mid-morning, with four heading north-west over Nafferton in the late afternoon. Three at Well Springs on The Carrs west of Scarborough on 23rd April were presumably the same that headed south the next day at Atwick, Hornsea and eventually Spurn at 1215hrs. April's last record related to a single that flew south over Priory Road, Hull on 30th.

There were just two records in May, starting with one over Flamborough and then Buckton on 23rd that eventually flew south and an adult that overflew Kew Villa on 27th, before heading west over Easington.

In June, five circled over Hornsea Mere on 4th before leaving to the south-east and were later observed over Thorngumbald. A single lingered on the Wolds near Grindale on 20th/21st June, while a long-stayer remained in the Hornsea Mere/Bewholme/Atwick area from 6th August until 20th September.

Late autumn produced a single over Silsden on 2nd October and four east over Tophill Low NR on 7th October. More unusual, two flew east over Tophill Low on 20th December, perhaps a movement induced by frozen feeding grounds.

At the regular breeding site, the first arrived on 24th April, with both adults present from 27th April until 30th August. Unfortunately, the single young was lost prior to fledging, presumably due to predation. In addition, pairs displayed at two other locations and, although some nest building was observed, any breeding attempt was soon abandoned, while two summered at another potential breeding site.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* **A**

Amber list: scarce resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant. BBS 41/211

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 10200: GB threshold 3200

Nationally there has been a long-term increase in the breeding population following inland colonization, but wintering numbers show a slight decline over the past 10 years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	486	43	622	489	62	12	55	118	453	82	707	65
South Tees	87	131	104	36	28	1	20	270	313	845	387	412

Along the coast, Scarborough's South Bay attracted 135 on 19th January, while further south, 124 roosted at Filey Brigg at the end of January, before peaking at 152 on 2nd March, after which numbers fell away to leave 50 over the summer months. Autumn and early winter maxima at Filey included 125 on 12th September, 107 on 3rd October and the year's best of 168 on 15th December. The only other appreciable count away from the Humber related to 91 at Barmston on 17th January. There were relatively low numbers on the Humber at Spurn, with a best of 602 on 3rd November. Further upstream, Sunk Island hosted 78 on 1st August.

During spring, 42 flew south and 32 came in off the sea at Spurn between 28th February and 4th June. However, the heaviest coastal movements took place during autumn and included 106 past Long Nab on 13th August. Passage was poor at Filey, with a best of 25 heading south on 16th August, while Flamborough logged 225 south on 23rd July, followed by 100 south on 5th August. Spurn recorded the most, with 3862 flying south and 71 in off the sea between 17th June and 20th November. Passage peaked in July and August, with highs of 148 on 14th July; 258 on 5th August, 335 on 9th, 304 on 10th, 175 on 11th, 160 on 13th and 304 on 26th August.

Inland, the highest aggregations occurred in the north-west and involved 23 at Lindley Wood Res on 20th February, 30 at Kilnsey on 25th, 30 at Arncliffe Cote on 27th February and 30 at Hay-a-Park GP the next day. Totals increased further during March, with maxima of 45 at Scar House Res, 67 at Nosterfield, 74 at Thruscross, 75 at Grimwith Res, 97 at Nicholson's Lagoon, Ripon and 113 at Gouthwaite Res.

Post-breeding there were up to 21 at Otley, 22 at North Cave, 24 at Stainburn, 40 at Nosterfield NR, 67 at Thruscross and 115 at Gouthwaite Res during July.

In the east, pairs bred at Scaling Dam, Wykeham Lakes and Harwood Dale Lake and within the Hull Valley at Brough Airfield Marsh, Leconfield, Tophill Low (two pairs), Routh Heron Lakes, Watton NR, several pairs in the Beswick area and around Pulfin & High Eske. Breeding was also suspected at Paull Holme Strays, Brigham and near Wilfholme, while two pairs attempted to breed in the Kelk/Gembling/Harpham areas. Two pairs attempted to breed at Spurn, but were both unsuccessful, while two broods were raised at North Cave.

Two pairs bred at Potteric Carr, three pairs bred around Old Moor, three pairs at Winterset, with further pairs at Winscar Res, Wilthorpe Marsh and near Edderthorpe Flash. Near Sheffield, a pair bred successfully at Redmires Res and another also attempted to breed at Rother Valley CP.

The population continues to increase in the Huddersfield area, with two pairs at Winscar Res and breeding attempted at Broadstones Res, Butterley Res, Carlecotes Ponds, Digley Res and Whitley Common. Pairs probably bred at Cold Edge Dams and Walshaw Dean near Halifax, while pairs bred at Adel, Eccup Res and three pairs at Swillington Ings and attempted at Carthick Wood, Rodley NR and Skelton Lake near Leeds. Further east, pairs bred at Fairburn Ings and at East Cottingwith.

In the Bradford area, breeding was proved at Denton Moor, Kex Gill Quarry, Burley, and the reservoirs at Leeshaw, Lower Laithe and Thornton Moor. However, the highest breeding numbers were in the Yorkshire Dales including Upper Wharfedale, with 17 between Barden and Burnsall on 26th April indicative of the numbers present. During the breeding season, it was widely distributed from low ground up to moorland in the Harrogate district, including four pairs at Nosterfield NR, two pairs each at Flasks Lake, Farnham GP and Staveley. Further north, five pairs in the Malham area, although all probably failed.

A colour-ringed adult at Winterset from 20th March until 24th June visited the site for the second consecutive year, having been originally ringed as an adult at Hythe, Hampshire on 31st August 2008.



Oystercatcher
Colin Wilkinson

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* **A**

0,0,0,0,1

Very rare visitor; 12 previous individuals

It breeds in southern Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas, with the European population wintering in Africa south of the Sahara.

An adult appeared at Nosterfield NR at 0858hrs on 25th April; however, it left high to the north-west at 0910hrs (TS: SPW *et al.*). Amazingly, having flown low north-west over Clifton Backies, York at 0810hrs the following day (AW), it was relocated at Lingham Lake, again near Nosterfield, at noon on 26th April and remained there until dusk. An exceptional rarity in recent years, this record represents the first county record since three at Welton Waters, then Wheldrake Ings, on 5th/6th May 1993.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 35

It is increasingly spreading from established colonies along the coast in the south-east of the UK, including establishing small populations at several inland locations.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	0	0	14	69	19	14	3	0	0	0	1	0

Unusual mid-winter records included a single at Spurn on 13th January and one at Paull Holme Strays three days later.

The return started during March, with 30 present at Blacktoft Sands on 13th and 20 at Hedon Haven the following day.

During the breeding season, North Cave attracted 16 pairs, although only four chicks fledged and only one young fledged from 15 pairs at Blacktoft Sands, with predation by Black-headed Gulls taking its toll. Up to 16 were at Brough Airfield Marsh during June, with at least five adults on nests; three young were present on 26th June. Adults appeared in residence at Swillington Ings from late March, with five pairs hatching three young each; at least 11 finally fledged. Four pairs arrived at Nosterfield NR in spring, but due to high water levels, only a single pair nested and fledged three young.

Along the Humber, there were sporadic sightings around Spurn from 29th May until 3rd November, with bests of three on 29th May and again on 11th October. Sunk Island hosted two on 28th May, three on 11th July, five on 6th August, six on 11th September and, finally, a single on 8th November.

Inland, two visited Swillington Ings and Pugney’s CP on 18th March, followed by a single at North Cave and 19 at Aughton Ings the next day. There were two at Potteric Carr on 20th/21st March and singles at Wombwell Ings on 26th and Seamer Tip Pools on 31st March. Up to nine were in residence at Potteric Carr from 4th April until 5th June and present at Fairburn Ings from 5th April until 18th May, with a best of 17 on 14th/15th April. Thereafter, there were records on sporadic dates at Fairburn, until the last four on 11th July. Elsewhere, two visited Huggin Carr on 11th April and perhaps the same duo appeared at Wombwell the next day and two dropped in at North Duffield Carrs on 15th April. In the latter half of April, there were two on Hatfield Moors on 19th, the same number at Wombwell Ings/Old Moor two days later and two at Smallways (North Yorkshire) on 28th April. Orgreave Lakes hosted a single on 6th May, two graced Hatfield Moors on 2nd June and one stayed at Hornsea Mere on 16th/17th August. One at Sands Lane GP on 6th/7th September represented only the second ever record for the Huddersfield area, with a single at Wintersett on 7th September preceding the last inland at Old Moor on 13th October.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor

A summer visitor from Africa, which is widespread across Europe. First bred in Britain at Tring in 1938.

An early migrant at North Anston on 7th March preceded singles at Wombwell Ings on 12th, Walshaw Dean on 15th, Thrybergh CP on 18th, two at Pugney’s CP and singles at Watton NR and Swillington Ings all on 19th March; the first in the north-east appeared at Scaling Dam on 22nd March.

Breeding was well distributed, with a successful pair at Scaling Dam, displaying pairs at Seamer Tip Pools and Wykeham Lakes, near Scarborough, and a pair raised two young at Primrose Valley, Filey. Within the Hull Valley, eight pairs noted at six sites, including two near Beverley, Watton NR, Saltend, Brough Airfield Marsh and near Cottingham. Two pairs were in residence during the spring at North Cave, with one subsequently fledging a single juvenile.

Potteric Carr hosted three pairs that managed to fledge at least one young, while there were four confirmed and two probable pairs on Hatfield Moors. Near Sheffield, a pair attempted to breed at Orgreave Lakes and two pairs bred successfully at Redmires Res. It was considered a poor breeding season in the Barnsley area, with two pairs on Houghton Washlands, three pairs attempted at Old Moor and pairs possibly bred at Wilthorpe Marsh and Winscar Res. Two pairs bred at Pugney’s CP, while to the west, pairs bred at three sites near Huddersfield and probably attempted to do so at four others.

Four pairs bred at three sites in Halifax, with another pair present, while pairs were present at nine sites near Bradford, with successful breeding recorded at five of these. A pair at a building site in Guiseley hatched three young, while a pair in Washburn fledged a single juvenile. Near Leeds, three pairs bred at Swillington Ings

and one pair at Thorpe Park, with a pair at Eccup Res failing after laying eggs. A pair displayed at Skelton Lake, but there was no further proof of breeding, and two agitated adults near Middleton may have bred. Two pairs at Fairburn Ings reared three young, while two pairs at York University failed to produce young.

Three pairs bred at Nosterfield Quarry, with three young fledging. Two pairs nested at Nosterfield NR, but both failed during incubation. A pair laid eggs at a natural site by the River Ure in Ripon Parks, but these also failed at the incubation stage. A pair bred at Gouthwaite Res fledging four young, with Staveley West Lagoon and Farnham GP hosting displaying pairs.

Post-breeding, 21 gathered at Wombwell Ings on 8th July, but across the county most had departed by the middle of August. Late individuals included a juvenile at Redmires Res until 30th August, one at Swillington Ings on 3rd September; ever present at Old Moor until 17th September and a single dropped in at Tophill Low on 21st September.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 330 winter, 300 passage

The wintering population had been declining, hence Amber status, but now appears to be stable. Small numbers winter on the estuaries, with spring migration of birds that breed further north usually peaking in mid to late May, and birds returning in August. Breeds in very small numbers both on the coast and inland.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	51	7	12	7	830	32	33	146	269	12	25	24
South Tees	0	0	5	13	217	22	37	25	69	2	0	24

Up to 24 wintered on South Landing Beach, Flamborough during January/February, with 91 at Barmston on 17th January, 61 at Marske on 26th January and 28 in Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough on 23rd February. At the end of the year, there were up to 44 on South Landing Beach, Flamborough during December.

The only coastal breeding record referred to 11 pairs at Spurn and two young subsequently fledged, despite visitor/predator pressures. Inland, two pairs bred at Potteric Carr and pairs bred/attempted to breed at Orgreave, Parkgate (two pairs) and Thrybergh CP near Sheffield. A pair reared two young on Edderthorpe Flash, three pairs nested on nearby Cudworth Common/Ferry Moor Wetland. An adult attended a nest scrape at Shortwood Way, Worsbrough Valley during spring, but the outcome was unknown. Two pairs attempted to breed at Old Moor and one pair on Wombwell Ings, but without success, while two pairs bred on the Calder Wetlands near Pugney’s CP. A pair on eggs at York University failed to raise young.

Three pairs made several nesting attempts at Nosterfield NR, but all failed during incubation. Of the three breeding attempts at Nosterfield Quarry, only one pair hatched a single chick. A pair also attempted to breed at Staveley West Lagoon, but again failed. Present throughout the breeding season at Grimwith Res, with seven adults present on 12th June.

Passage along the Humber included 25 at Paull on 16th March, 18 at Sunk Island on 25th April, 80 at Sunk Island on 7th May, which then increased to 110 the following day, before dropping back to 80 on 10th May. However, passage through Sunk Island peaked in the latter half of May as evidenced by 56 on 16th, increasing to 108 on 22nd, peaking at 430 on 24th, 350 the next day and then dropping back to 270 on 31st May. In autumn, there were 422 on the Humber at Spurn on 25th August and 150 at Paull Holme Strays on 5th September.

At Spurn, 191 flew south and 34 came in off the North Sea between 3rd July and 2nd November, with highs of 64 on 10th and 24 on 11th August. Coastal passage elsewhere accounted for 17 at Filey Brigg and 27 at Flamborough on 23rd August, 170 at South Gare on 12th September; 26 at Scalby Mills on 5th October and, finally, Barmston hosted 25 at the end of October.

Appreciable passage inland started with ten at Old Moor in late March, but numbers only picked up from the last week of April, with 13 at Swillington Ings on 25th and 26 at Old Moor and 11 at Swillington Ings on 29th April.

Edderthorpe Flash hosted 14 on 2nd May, followed by 38 in the Nosterfield area on 15th/16th May and passage then increased across inland sites during the latter half of May. Edderthorpe Flash hosted 12 on 21st, 35 visited Potteric Carr, 18 dropped in at Wombwell Ings and ten at Old Moor on 24th May, 32 at Swillington Ings the following day, 40 graced Nosterfield on 26th and, finally, Thornton Moor Res hosted 14 on 30th May. In early June, there were 47 at Swillington Ings on 2nd and 12 at Potteric Carr the next day.

During autumn, Thornton Moor Res attracted ten on 20th July, nine appeared at Whiteholme Res on 22nd August, 18 were on Thorne Moors on 6th September and Nosterfield NR attracted 20 on 8th September.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* **A** 69,22,37,39,42

Amber list: scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; rarely has bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, on route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.

The year started with a bang with 15 on Ingleborough on 1st May, followed by duos at West Carlton and Ellerton (DR: PCR) on 3rd May. Malham Tarn hosted a trip of 12 on 10th May (IRC), followed by a single at Weecher Res on 15th May and two at Marr, South Yorkshire the next day. The Dales proved productive yet again, with four on Great Whernside on 22nd May.

Autumn passage started with one lingering at West Carlton from 10th–12th August, while a confiding juvenile proved photogenic at Buckton on 7th/8th September (MT). An adult was in fields north of Long Bank, Easington on 11th September, before it flew off south (JG), and the year ended with a late single at Aldbrough on 29th October.



GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* **A**

Amber list: uncommon moorland breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 38/216

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 9300: GB threshold 2500

Breeding numbers are still thought to be contracting, but nationally, wintering numbers have been increasing. The Humber estuary is the most important UK wintering site, with peak counts over 47,000, with most birds of Fennoscandian or Russian origin.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2805	2597	1839	–	–	18	945	8661	2896	7074	24,139	25

Good numbers were present on the Humber at Spurn from January to March, with a maximum count of 4000 on 19th March and 3500 were present there on 30th October. Further upstream, Paull Holme Strays hosted 800 on 21st March. Numbers increased substantially at the latter site during the autumn, with 6000 present on 2nd October, 8000 on 30th October and 9000 present on 20th November. Sunk Island hosted 600 on 27th February and 2240 gathered there on 22nd May.

Substantial inland flocks during the first two months included 335 at Jay House Lane, Halifax during January, 400 at Todwick on 29th January, 300 at Broadstones Res on 27th February, 430 at Swinemoor Common on 27th February and a maximum of 431 at Nosterfield NR during the latter month. Flock sizes increased during early spring, starting with 1000 over Swillington on 3rd March, 500 at Bolsterstone and a similar number at Whitley Common on 12th March, 500 at Thrybergh CP and 700 at Withernwick on 22nd March, 450 at Clayton Fields the next day and 480 at Kelk on 27th March. Substantial flocks during April included 500 at Langsett, 500 at Winterset and 1000 at Broadstones Res on 7th, a maximum of 450 at Ringstone Edge, 480 at Low Bishopside, 500 at Barden Scale, 940 at Nosterfield NR, 1200 at Stainburn and 600 at Peat Pits, Sheffield on 22nd April.

In the north–east, three pairs on Guisborough Moor and present during the spring/summer at Dimmingdale and High Moor, while recorded during the breeding season in three 1km squares on Fylingdales Moor. Along the Pennines, there were three pairs at Flint Hill, Sheffield, with breeding behaviour also noted at Brown Edge, Blacka Moor, Dukes Road, Redmires, Ringinglow and Thornseat Delph. West of Barnsley, the moors attracted at least six pairs on Round Hill, at least five were displaying over Cut Gate on 20th May, three pairs held territory on Howden Outer Edge on 2nd June, with two on Windleden Edge and one at Salters Brook on 29th June. Near Huddersfield, several displayed at Harden during the spring, with breeding evidence from Ramsden Res, Featherbed Moss, Black Moss Res and Black Hill. Further north, breeding confirmed at Whiteholme, High Brown Knoll and Fly Flats near Halifax and at Rombalds Moor, Kex Gill and Warley Moor within the Bradford recording area. In Wharfedale, bred on Hawksworth and Grassington Moors and breeding pairs thinly distributed throughout suitable habitat in the Harrogate district, with three chicks ringed and two other broods observed in the Dallowgill area. Two/three pairs also probably bred on the summit plateau of Fountains Fell, Malham.

Relatively low numbers recorded moving over Spurn during the autumn, with 42 south and 128 in off the sea between 23rd June and 6th October, with bests of 29 on 28th June, 41 on 29th August and 27 on 15th September. Elsewhere, 38 headed south at Filey on 29th August.

Sunk Island attracted substantial post–breeding numbers, starting with 500 on 13th July, 1150 on 30th July and 2450 were present on 3rd September. A flock of 1900 remained in residence at Sunk Island on 4th October and numbers peaked there at 3300 on 15th before reducing. The cold snap at the end of November prompted an exodus, with only 60 present at Sunk Island on 14th December.

During the autumn, substantial inland flocks included 400 over Tophill Low during early September, 650 at Nosterfield NR during October, 500 at Pulfin & High Eske and 500 at Drewton both on 25th October and 1000 at Wilfholme on 30th October. The hard weather from November reduced maxima at many sites, although there were still 420 at Ellerton on 2nd November, 1300 at Potteric Carr on 5th, 500 at Peat Pits on 11th November, 1000 near Lotherton Hall on 13th, 600 at Huggin Carr on 14th November and a maximum of 400 at Ringstone Edge and 2000 at Stainburn during November.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* **A**

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2500: GB threshold 530

A visitor from breeding grounds in the high Arctic, this globally widespread species winters on the outer Humber, with passage noted in April and May, and again in September. Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The national trend is, however, declining.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	966	404	795	2656	2278	1	301	1938	904	581	1157	405
South Tees	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	68	0	4

Only small numbers were observed along the coast in either winter period, with six at Black Rocks, Scarborough on 19th January, three wintered in Filey, with a best of four on 7th March, while further south, up to 20 featured on the beach regularly at Barmston during the first quarter. Barmston then hosted nine on 24th October, with eight on South Landing Beach, Flamborough on 26th December and six at Filey on 30th December.

The Humber again proved productive, with 120 at Welwick on 4th January and 120 at Sunk Island during the last week of January. February maxima included 162 at Patrington on 21st February and 550 at Sunk Island on 27th February; numbers then rose at Sunk Island, from 380 on 25th April to a peak of 2000 on 24th May. There were daily records on the Humber at Spurn apart from the middle of June, including a best of 645 on 4th May. During the second half there were 440 at Sunk Island on 15th August and 95 at Paull Holme Strays on 30th August.

The flock at Sunk Island numbered 480 on 25th October and peaked at 550 on 6th November, before reducing dramatically, to leave a mere 30 on 11th December.

Visible migration at Spurn logged 709 heading east between 26th May and 12th June, with an impressive 410 on 26th May and 205 the next day. Totals were much lower in autumn, with 41 south and 12 in off the sea between 3rd July and 2nd November, including 22 on 10th August.

The first inland record appeared at Wheldrake Ings on 11th April, followed by another at Eccup Res on 15th April. There was a pulse of records during May, including one lingering at Winterset on 12th/13th, singles at Flasks Lake and Nosterfield NR on 15th, and a flurry late on starting with a lone individual at Old Moor on 21st–23rd, two at Potteric Carr on 22nd/23rd and low single figures in residence at Hatfield Moors from 23rd–26th May, with a best of six on 24th.

A single on Hatfield Moors on 5th July preceded others at Whiteholme, Halifax on 7th August and over Nosterfield NR on 12th August. September produced a single over Dewsbury SF on 8th, another over Kex Gill, Bradford on 12th, singles at Thornton Moor on 19th and 26th, one stayed at Wombwell Ings/Broomhill Flash from 27th–29th, and finally, singles headed over Thorne Moors on 28th September and Swillington Ings the next day.

Thorne Moors hosted another on 2nd October, when three flew over Tophill Low. A single at Potteric Carr on 7th October preceded one over Thrybergh CP on 9th October, followed by lone individuals over Thornton Moor on 10th and 13th, with perhaps the latter also over Cold Edge Road, Halifax the same day. Another single over Redmires Res on 15th October was followed by four over Soil Hill on 17th. October’s last were singles over Thornton Moor on 20th, Old Moor on 25th and over Nosterfield NR on 29th.

One remained at Wheldrake Ings on 9th/10th November, with two over Winterset on 18th, followed by a single at Broomhill Flash on 30th November. Unusually, there were two inland records during December, with singles at Eccup Res on 7th December and Swillington Ings on 28th/29th December.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident; common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 125/216: +28% (–3) 1995–2009, –9% (–5) 2009–10
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 20000

UK residents are joined in winter by migrants from Scandinavia and northern Europe. There has been a long–term slow national decline in the breeding population that has not been reflected in local BBS data. 2010 was the second poor year in succession, however.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2235	4200	351	14	5	34	32	66	142	387	618	166
South Tees	9	158	45	40	4	5	6	116	37	36	45	20

The largest aggregations during the first two months related to 400 at Weston, Wharfedale during the first week of January, 600 over Struncheonhill Farm, Hull Valley on 6th January, 500 at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd January and 630 at Sunk Island on 26th January. Nosterfield hosted a maximum of 1394 during February, with 400 at Fairburn Ings on 13th, 1000 at Old Moor from 13th–22nd and, finally, 1094 at Lingham Lake on 16th February.

In the east there were an estimated 130 pairs breeding on the Carrs inland of Scarborough, while a survey of farmland on Flamborough located 17 pairs on four farms. Within the Hull Valley, the Harpham/Lowthorpe/Kelk area hosted at least 29 territories, while Swinemoor Common held 22 breeding pairs, but only around 15 successfully produced young and few survived to fledge. Clearly suitable farmland will hold the bulk of the population, but the importance of wetland reserves was emphasised by 20 pairs at North Cave fledging 40 young, while five pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands.

At least 66 pairs were located around Old Moor, fledging at least 65 young, and there were 20 pairs at Edderthorpe, with ten additional pairs on Cudworth Common and on additional land west of Edderthorpe Flash. A minimum of nine pairs bred in the Worsbrough Valley and a further six pairs at Winterset. Wilthorpe Marsh hosted seven territories, three pairs bred at Goldthorpe and a pair bred at Carlton Marsh for the first time in several years. Upland breeding records to the west of Barnsley included 23 territories on Stone Moor and at least ten pairs around the ‘Dog & Partridge’. Fairburn Ings hosted 20 pairs (up from 12 pairs in 2009), while there were at least six pairs near Ingbirchworth Res and five displaying males at Mount Tabor, north of Halifax. Within Upper Wharfedale, it appeared to be ‘breeding in good numbers’, although 39 territorial pairs at Nosterfield NR represented a 35% decrease compared to the previous year. A survey of parts of Nidderdale’s ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ located 202 pairs and analysis of habitat elsewhere within the AONB indicated a population in the region of 711 pairs.

The larger post–breeding aggregations included 500 at Thorne Moors on 26th July, 1980 at Lingham Lake on 15th August and 820 at Edderthorpe on 21st August. Flocks increased further during September, with 1000 near Swillington Ings on 3rd, 1035 at Old Moor and 600 on Wilfholme Carrs on 19th, with the latter building to 2050 on 24th, 2000 at Lingham Lake on 21st and 1100 at Skipton and 1000 at High Batts NR on 30th September. In early October, there were 600 at Smallways and 500 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd and 600 remained in the Wilfholme/Arram area on 30th October. November featured several large flocks and some of the biggest were 1200 at Potteric Carr on 5th, 800 at Paull Holme Strays on 20th, 1800 at Old Moor on 20th/21st, 1000 over East Cottingwith on 21st, 1600 at Blacktoft Sands on 24th November and a maximum of 700 at Cononley Ings throughout.

Because of cold weather at the year–end, there were the lowest numbers in the north–east since 1992–3 and flock sizes much reduced in many other areas, with 330 remaining at Otley on 19th December a notable exception. Further evidence of the exodus included 131 in off at Spurn on 17th November, 700 south over Scarborough on 19th November, 52 west over Langsett Res on 27th November, 220 over Flamborough on 28th November and 300 south past Hunmanby Gap on 2nd December.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4500: GB threshold 2800

The Humber was the fourth most important UK wintering site for this species. Birds are almost exclusively of the race *islandica* that breed in northern Greenland and high Arctic Canada. The population is thought to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	31,565	3279	15,732	3487	1000	1	4643	12,308	19,245	3600	14,452	361
South Tees	200	315	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	1020

Along the coast, Filey hosted the only appreciable flock in either winter period, although numbers were reduced on previous years, with 85 on 31st January and a best of 65 on 26th December in the final quarter. Most wintered along the Humber and Patrington attracted 1210 on 21st February. However, larger numbers featured at Sunk Island, with 4500 on 25th January increasing to 7500 on 14th February; after 7000 on 21st March, numbers then dropped to leave 2700 on 25th April. Numbers dramatically increased on the Humber during the last week of July, with 100 at Paull Holme Strays on 25th July and a mere 55 at Sunk Island on the same date; however, a flock of 1400 was present at Sunk Island on 31st July. Sunk Island attracted 1800 on 31st October, 5000 were present on 26th November, but December’s maximum related to 800 on 12th December. Only absent at Spurn from 13th–18th June, with a best of 18,000 on 4th September.

The only sign of spring emigration resulted from 200 heading east at Spurn on 26th March. In autumn, 2242 flew south and 597 came in off at Spurn between 26th June and 18th November; high counts included 334 south on 15th July, 322 on 16th, 238 on 17th, 594 on 21st July; 250 on 10th, 83 on 11th and 78 on 15th August. Elsewhere, southbound migration included 37 at Filey on 14th July, 94 at Flamborough the next day, 56 at Filey and 145 at Flamborough on 16th July and 96 off Scalby Mills and 58 at Flamborough on 20th July. Later, 22 headed south past Filey on 23rd August and 40 rested on the Brigg on 12th September; perhaps the same flock then tracked north past Long Nab the following day and 30 headed south there on 26th September.

The first inland lingered at Calder Wetlands from 26th–30th January, North Cave attracted a single on 29th January, followed by singles at Old Moor on 9th February and one at Bolton–on–Swale GP the next day, with another present at North Cave from 28th February until 4th March. A single at Pulfin & High Eske on 11th March preceded one at Swillington Ings on 3rd April, with a single at Lingham Lake on 17th April and another at Smallways on 23rd and 30th April. Pugney’s CP hosted a lone individual on 30th May, followed by singles at Nosterfield NR on 7th June and Swillington Ings on 13th June.

Three dropped in at Hornsea Mere on 15th August and singles graced Lingham Lake on 20th August, Winterset on 28th and Scaling Dam on 29th August. September produced a flurry of inland records, starting with singles at Blacktoft Sands on 6th and Hornsea Mere the next day, four at Thornton Moor on 10th and singles at Old Moor from 10th–15th September, Winterset from 15th–17th, two at Wombwell Ings on 15th, Swillington Ings on 22nd, Potteric Carr from 25th–28th, Old Moor on 26th and Thornton Moor and Lingham Lake on 29th September. Old Moor hosted a single on 4th October, with others at Winterset on 8th, Potteric Carr on 13th/14th and Swillington Ings on 21st October. The last inland were two at Scaling Dam on 2nd November and one at Boshaw Whams on 17th November.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* **A**
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland. BBS 1/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 210 winter, 300 passage
Breeds on the high Arctic tundra from Canada east to Siberia, and Palearctic birds winter south to Africa. The national numbers are stable or increasing slightly, but noted as becoming increasingly scarce in the Scarborough area.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	12	10	34	22	370	2	14	1	281	–	33	40
South Tees	34	0	66	40	350	45	75	50	0	29	134	32

Both the Scarborough coastline and Filey Bay have witnessed a dramatic decline in wintering numbers over recent years, with 12 on the Brigg on 9th January and 16 on Filey beach on 7th/8th March the best and none wintered at Scarborough. Further south, there were 24 between Atwick and Barmston on 30th January, 33 at Flamborough on 3rd February, 30 at Skipsea on 20th February and 21 at Barmston on 3rd April. The second half brought an improvement, starting with 105 on the beach at Kilnsea on 20th July, 202 at Coatham Sands on 21st July, 70 at Marske on 25th August, 100 on Bridlington South Beach on 16th November and Filey Bay hosted 25 on 30th December.

There were almost daily records on the Humber at Spurn, although only in low numbers during the winter/mid-summer. Further upstream, 15 at Paull Holme Strays on 4th April and noted regularly at Sunk Island, with highs of 19 on 14th March, 15 on 26th April and 26 on 14th May. Spurn hosted 720 on 29th September, while there were 12 off Sunk Island on 10th September and eight at Paull Holme Strays on 14th November.

Small numbers headed out east from Spurn during spring, with highlights of 14 on 18th May and 12 on 2nd June. Post-breeding 1663 flew south and 43 came in off at Spurn between 11th July and 2nd December, with highs of 138 on 16th July, 149 on 17th, 129 the next day, 358 on 20th, 156 on 21st July and 119 on 10th August. Fewer were recorded at other sites and included 26 south at Flamborough on 19th July and 41 similarly the next day.

Inland records started with one at Swillington Ings on 7th April, two at Flasks Lake on 18th, singles at Swillington Ings and Gouthwaite Res on 29th April and Malham Tarn’s second-ever the following day. After a lull, Potteric Carr hosted a single on 11th May, with singles at Orgreave on 13th, Swillington Ings next day and Eccup Res and Orgreave on 15th. Present at Hatfield Moors on a daily basis from 18th May until the end of the month, with a maximum of 13 on 25th May; also noted regularly at Swillington Ings, starting with two on 20th May, with a peak of nine present on 24th/25th May. Elsewhere, singles at Potteric Carr on 20th and Winterset on 22nd, seven at Old Moor/Wombwell Ings, five at Pugney’s CP and a single at Orgreave on 24th May, two at Wombwell Ings and singles at Edderthorpe Flash and Winterset on 28th, two at Thornton Moor the following day, one at Mossy Moor Res on 30th and, finally, one at Redmires Res on 31st May. June opened with an impressive 22 at Swillington Ings on 1st, followed by another there on 4th and two at Old Moor on 9th June.

Orgreave hosted the next on 17th/18th July, with another at Nosterfield NR on 14th August, a single at Hornsea Mere the next day, one at Thornton Moor on 19th August, two on Calder Wetlands on 21st and one at Whiteholme on 29th August. Swillington Ings attracted singles on 24th and 26th September and the last visited Calder Wetlands on 13th November.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; four previous records
Breeding in northern North America, it winters from Central America south to Brazil.

Blacktoft Sands hosted a moulting adult on 8th/9th August, well documented by notes/photographs (MA: MJP *et al.*). Unfortunately it then moved across the Trent to Alkborough in North Lincolnshire, where it remained in residence from 19th–24th August. This represented the first record since a juvenile at Easington Lagoon on 17th September 1999.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant, scarce in spring
Nearest populations are in Norway, followed by Arctic Russia. Winters in southern Europe and Africa, passing through the county on passage.
The only spring record related to two at Paull Holme Strays on 27th May.

First to return was a single on Hatfield Moors on 1st July, with another at Spurn on 2nd/3rd and one at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd July. Relatively few appeared during August, with singles at Staveley Lagoon on 8th and Spurn from 10th–13th, with a second individual present on 11th. After a lone individual lingered at Hornsea Mere from 20th–22nd August, South Landing, Flamborough hosted one on 24th August, Spurn another on 27th and a single stayed at Swillington Ings from 30th August until 6th September.

Predictably most appeared during September, with singles at Bewholme Hall on 2nd, Skipwith Common’s first ever on 2nd/3rd, North Cave from 3rd–8th and Bewholme Hall again on 7th. Blacktoft Sands hosted up to two from 5th–11th September, with another at South Landing, Flamborough on 6th/7th and two at Hornsea Mere from 7th–10th September. Further inland, five remained in the Dearne Valley at Old Moor, Edderthorpe and Wombwell Ings from 7th–11th September.

Up to two stayed at Nosterfield NR from 9th–15th September, followed by singles at Orgreave on 10th, Spurn on 11th September and South Gare from 11th–12th September. Two graced Flasks Lake on 13th September and preceded one at Edderthorpe Flash from 13th–15th and another at Spurn on 15th September. In the latter half of September, there were two at Old Moor on 19th, two at Nosterfield NR on 22nd, singles at Swillington Ings on 24th/25th, Wombwell Ings from 24th–30th, Calder Wetlands on 25th, Spurn the next day and Edderthorpe Flash on 28th September. The month ended with three at Lingham Lake from 29th September–3rd October and another at Hornsea Mere on 30th September. A maximum of three stayed at Wombwell Ings from 1st–8th October, with a single at Smallways on 2nd, one at Potteric Carr on 8th and two at both South Gare and Swillington Ings on 9th October.

TEMMINCK’S STINT *Calidris temminckii* **A** 6,5,8,5,10
Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 341 previous records (367 birds)
This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations in the county.

The first remained at Wombwell Ings from 11th–13th May (BE *et al.*), followed by another at Watton NR on 17th May (RL). Watton NR then hosted an additional two on 22nd/23rd May (JB). Three were also located at Beacon Ponds on 22nd May; two of these were later trapped and represented new additions for the Spurn ringing list. Swillington Ings hosted a single on 25th/26th May (DIH: REL: KAN: ARo *et al.*), before the last of spring appeared at North Cave on 26th May (GAD: SG).

The only post-breeding record related to a single at Hornsea Mere on 7th July.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* 2,0,1,0,1
Rare migrant; 26 previous records
This Nearctic wader breeds in northern Canada and migrates along the eastern US seaboard to winter in South America.

After a blank 2009, South Gare hosted an adult on 9th–10th August (WIB *et al.*).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* **A** 10,15,14,6,5
Scarce migrant; 191 previous records (201 birds)
This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county.

Rare in spring, two adults present at North Cave from 30th April–1st May was a particularly noteworthy record (SG *et al.*). Autumn was disappointing compared to recent years, with a juvenile spending an hour on Clubley’s Field, Spurn before departing west on 21st September (IRC: AAH: PVI *et al.*). A single appeared briefly at Tophill Low on 23rd September (NB *et al.*) and a long-staying juvenile arrived at Potteric Carr the same day; eventually departing on 8th October (TF *et al.*).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* **A** 0,1,0,0,1
Vagrant: two previous records
Breeds in north-east Siberia and winters in Australasia.

An adult was located feeding with a flock of Ringed Plover at 1650hrs on 22nd August at Patrington Haven (JG *et al.*). It then gave sporadic views to a gathering crowd until mid-evening, when it flew out towards the estuary. The next day it was relocated on the Humber off the Crown & Anchor, where it stayed for the next four hours (BS *et al.*). Incredibly the finder at Patrington also found the county’s last, off Sammy’s Point on 8th September 2007, while Blacktoft Sands hosted the only other Yorkshire record on 17th September 1982.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant; scarce in spring

A long-distance migrant from arctic Siberia, occurs in varying numbers each year on migration to and from south of the Mediterranean.

The year’s first appeared at Laxton Grange on 20th May, followed by a single on the Humber at Spurn on 25th and two at Beacon Ponds from 29th–31st May.

A single at Patrington on 11th July preceded one southbound at Flamborough on 19th July, followed by another at Spurn on 25th July, with up to five there on five dates in August. Elsewhere, Sunk Island hosted three on 8th August, with singles at Paull Holme Strays and Lingham Lake on 15th August. A mini-influx in the last week of August included singles at Old Moor, Patrington, Paull Holme Strays and up to five at Sunk Island. Fairburn Ings also recorded up to four daily from 27th August until 6th September and elsewhere, there were two at South Landing, Flamborough on 29th August, with one remaining until 31st, and two at Lingham Lake on 31st August.

Small numbers were recorded at Spurn through September, with a best of nine on 23rd, and also at Blacktoft Sands, with a peak of 21 there on 10th. South Gare hosted up to five juveniles during the first half of September and there were records at Old Moor on most dates throughout the month, including four from 10th–20th. Up to five remained at Nosterfield NR from 2nd–15th September, a single appeared at Tophill Low and two at Yearsley Moor on 4th, three were at both Ferrybridge and Sunk Island the next day and two at Paull Holme Strays on 6th September, with numbers increasing there to peak at nine on 12th, with two still present on 18th. Elsewhere, a single graced North Cave on 8th September, two were at Flasks Lake on 13th, six circled Snaygill Ings on 15th and singles visited Filey Brigg on 25th and Nosterfield NR the next day. September ended with five heading south past Scalby Lodge on 27th and a single at Swillington Ings on 29th.

On 1st October singles appeared at Lingham Lake and Nosterfield NR, with the latter remaining until 5th. Up to two lingered around Spurn from the start of October until the last on 16th and a maximum of four stayed in residence at Blacktoft Sands until 17th October. A single stayed in the Old Moor area until 11th October, while more brief, were singles at Scaling Dam on 2nd, South Gare on 9th and Wheldrake Ings on 24th October.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* **A**
Amber list: uncommon and declining passage migrant and winter visitor to rocky coasts

Breeds inland in Scandinavian tundra or further north on Arctic coastlines from eastern Canada to Siberia, wintering on rocky coasts. The national decline in wintering numbers has stabilized, but with birds tending to remain further north, it has become increasingly scarce in the county, where numbers peak between November and March.

The South Tees held five during January, with 15 present in February, but only a single remained in March. Further south, Scarborough’s wintering population numbered 28 on 1st January and peaked at 40 on 1st March. At the year-end, 44 were present at Scarborough on 14th December. Filey Brigg hosted 21 on 23rd January, followed by an increase there in spring, which included a peak of 26 on 2nd May. After a blank June, the first returned to the Brigg on 13th July. Up to ten featured at Filey throughout August and September, followed by a general increase to 30 on 28th November. However, only 18 remained at Filey on 26th December.

Flamborough hosted 16 on 1st January, with 20 present on 5th April and a best of 19 during the second half of the year on 6th December. Nearby, Bridlington Harbour proved to be a favoured location, with 33 present on 16th April and 20 there on 10th November. Two at Barmston on 3rd April preceded singles on 20th October and again on 24th October. The only other records from the Holderness coast came from Spurn, where there were singles on 20th January and 15th February. A total of 24 bird/days were then logged at Spurn from 14th August and 8th November, including four flying north past the sea-watching hut on 25th September and four present on 7th November.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **A**
Red list: rare breeder on moors; common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 4/216
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 13300: GB threshold 5600 winter, 2000 passage

Both the breeding population of *C. a. schinzii* and the wintering population have been declining nationally for a decade and numbers are now at the lowest ever WeBS count levels. Inland passage numbers are also decreasing.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	14,223	4824	13,050	10,571	7820	3	11,39	7405	3013	3221	10,107	997
South Tees	82	48	0	0	71	1	110	37	73	345	0	1

Along the Humber, there were up to 140 at Blacktoft Sands and 160 at North Ferriby during January, with 700 at Sunk Island on 7th and 800 at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd January. Numbers at Sunk Island then increased during spring, to peak at 3500 on 7th May. After a mid-summer lull, 60 were at Sunk Island on 3rd July, before numbers rose dramatically to 2400 on 26th July and a best of 3000 on 3rd August. Numbers then ebbed, so that only 600 remained at Sunk Island on 12th December. Elsewhere, there were 300 at Paull Holme Strays on 13th July and a best at Spurn of 4300 on 17th August.

There were very few appreciable counts along the coast, although Filey attracted a small wintering flock, including 90 on 20th February and 170 during the cold snap on 15th December.

Bubwith Ings attracted numbers at the start of the year, with 88 present on 9th February and 60 were still present at nearby Wheldrake Ings on 15th March.

Passage through inland waters included 25 at Swillington Ings on 30th March, 17 through Old Moor on 19th April, 12 at Lingham Lake and 20 at Nosterfield NR on 25th April and, finally, Hatfield Moors hosted 20 on 25th May.

Spring passage through Spurn lasted from 15th March until 28th May, with a peak of 80 on 27th May. On the moors west of Barnsley, two pairs bred on Round Hill and there were at least six singing males near Howden Outer Edge on 2nd June. Improved observer coverage resulted in the detection of ‘good numbers’ on moorland south-west of Huddersfield, while there were further indications of breeding in the southern half of the Bradford recording area. In Upper Wharfedale, adults were present during the breeding season at Grimwith, Birks Fell and Mossy Moor; there were record numbers at the latter site, including 19 on 1st June, several of which were displaying. Breeding was also considered probable in the Malham area.

In the autumn, 2667 flew south at Spurn and 278 came in off between 17th June and 18th November. Peak counts included 391 on 16th July, 283 the next day, 252 on 20th and 185 on 21st July. In the last two months there were 157 on 2nd November, 302 on 17th November and, finally, 150 on 2nd December.

Elsewhere, passage at Filey was lighter than usual, with 111 heading south on 18th July easily the best. At Scarborough, 161 flew south past Scalby Mills on 20th July. At Flamborough southbound passage during July included 144 on 16th, 232 on 17th, 170 the next day and 139 on 19th July.

Appreciable autumn passage inland began with 20 at Fairburn Ings on 5th August, followed by 31 on Thorne Moors on 5th September and then 46 at Hornsea Mere and 19 at Wombwell Ings on 7th September. Nosterfield NR hosted 24 on 8th September and 15 there on 22nd, when 16 headed west through Winterset. A large movement occurred through Swillington in late September, including 29 on 24th, 70 on 25th and 90 on 26th. Further south, Edderthorpe Flash pulled in 21 on 28th September, followed by 35 at Old Moor the next day. The latter site hosted 36 on 2nd October, with 21 still present at Old Moor on 12th November.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* **A**
Rare migrant: 17 previous records (18 birds)

The European race breeds in the boreal forest bogs of north Norway, Sweden and Finland and Arctic Russia, migrating SE to winter in the Persian Gulf, W India and Sri Lanka and small numbers winter in E Africa. It is a rare spring migrant to the UK with dispersing juveniles occasional from July.

An adult on the wader scrape at Old Moor from 0900hrs on 23rd May entertained a procession of birders until it flew off from the main marsh at 2010hrs (DMW *et al.*). Unsurprisingly, this represented a new species for the Barnsley area.

Almost as unusual in recent years, a juvenile took up residence at South Gare from 10th–12th September (GNM: MNS *et al.*).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **A**
Red list: uncommon passage migrant and scarce winter visitor; has occasionally bred

England supports a very small population and most records relate to passage birds from Fennoscandia and Russia that winter in Africa, although over-wintering has been increasingly noted in the county.

Several key locations held good numbers during the course of the year. The Lower Derwent Valley remained the favoured site and the wintering flock peaked at 90 at Ellerton Ings on 19th January. Numbers then built from mid-October, with 39 present at Wheldrake Ings on 30th October, increasing to 51 on 5th November. Present on a daily basis at Blacktoft Sands after the first two on 19th June through until the last in October, with a best of 82 on 24th August. There were low single figures on Thorne Moors from late summer, with highs of five on 23rd August and 11th September and there were also sporadic sightings at nearby Hatfield Moors, with a best there of four on 18th August. Immediately to the south-west, Potteric Carr held six on 28th September.

Unusually, a single graced Wombwell Ings, Broomhill Flash and Edderthorpe Flash on 30th/31st January. There were then regular reports from the Dearne Valley from 15th July through until 5th November, with peaks at Old Moor of 15 on 21st August and 17 on 6th–9th September. Present at Fairburn Ings from 21st July until 16th October, with a best of five. Nearby Swillington Ings attracted a single from 10th–28th February, with four

present on 28th April. Swillington attracted larger numbers from 31st July until 9th October, including ten on 21st and 29th August and again on 26th September. Finally, two were present at Swillington from 27th October until 1st November.

The wetlands in the Nosterfield area proved productive. A single lingered at Nosterfield NR from 23rd February until 20th March. Spring passage started with three at Lingham Lake on 11th April, four on 16th, with two present until 26th. Nosterfield NR hosted up to three from 4th–8th May, with a single on 26th. A male visited Nosterfield NR from 27th–29th June, followed by a female on 1st July and again on 22nd. Nosterfield NR hosted up to 12 from 5th August until 10th October. Flasks and Lingham Lakes generally attracted lower numbers, although 11 were at the former and 12 at the latter site on 25th September. Several other sites in the Harrogate area attracted single figures, with up to four at Staveley NR and three at Ripon City Quarry in August.

Several sites in the east attracted lower numbers than the aforementioned, including Swinemoor Common, where there were three in late March and a maximum of five during April. Four visited Wykeham Lakes on 28th April. After two flew south at Filey on 3rd July, the coastal watchpoints logged low single figures on several dates through until the end of October. There were highs of nine north–west over Hunmanby Gap on 15th September and eight at Spurn on 29th September. Hornsea Mere hosted up to seven during August/September and Potter Brompton Carr, in the Vale of Pickering, hosted four on 25th November.

Away from the Nosterfield complex, there were fewer records from the west, although a single stayed at Calder Wetlands from 14th–17th January, with perhaps the same at Rother Valley CP from 23rd–26th January, Broomhill Flash on 30th/31st January and Pugney’s CP on 6th/7th February. More unusually, eight dropped in at Bolton–on–Swale GP on 10th February.

Along the Pennines, a single visited Thornton Moor on 29th July, followed by singles at Hellifield Flash on 8th August, Rother Valley CP on 15th and Ingbirchworth Res on 16th/17th August. After two at Pepper Arden on 27th August, a single appeared at Blackmoorfoot Res on 30th August, representing the first site record for eight years. Five appeared on Hellifield Flash on 4th September, followed by a single at Eccup Res on 6th/7th and seven at Pepper Arden on 10th September. Numbers ebbed across the inland sites during October, although 15 was a notable tally at Smallways on 2nd and one visited Hellifield Flash on 6th October.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from northern Fennoscandia east to Siberia and winters from maritime Western Europe south to Africa.

During the first winter period there were up to three at Skelton Grange Power Station during January and six at Lane Ends, near Cononley and three at Bolehill Flash both on 10th January. Four were flushed at Wheldrake Ings on 25th March while Dale Pits, Hatfield Moors held a similar number on 27th March. Inland, singles remained at Swillington Ings on 10th April and Wholystone Moor the next day.

Coastal migrants included singles at Cromer Pond on 19th March, Long Nab on 25th and Filey Dams on 28th March. Further south, there were singles at Flamborough on 2nd April, Spurn on 4th and Flamborough again on 8th April. Spurn hosted three on 17th April, before singles there on 22nd/23rd April and, finally, a lone individual at the Canal on 6th May.

The first returned to Swillington Ings on 4th September, with others at Flamborough on 5th and 8th and one at Cooper Bridge, Huddersfield on 18th September.

Additional coastal migrants included one at Scalby Lodge on 29th/30th September, two there on 2nd October, two at Cromer Pond on 22nd October and one in stubble at Long Nab on 13th November. Filey’s sole migrants related to singles on Carr Naze on 8th/10th October, while Flamborough logged one on 1st/2nd October and two on 10th. Spurn’s first made landfall on 21st September, followed by almost daily records there until 10th November, including nine on 27th September, nine on 9th October and seven on 12th October.

Inland, maxima included six at Wheldrake Ings on 17th October, although the true number present was illustrated by 14 trapped at Wheldrake Ings during the week ending 21st October. Elsewhere, Wilthorpe Marsh held five on 21st November, Yeadon Tam three in late November, with a similar number at Heslington on 7th December.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **A**
Scarce breeding resident; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 37/216

Although nominate *gallinago* breed in Yorkshire, numbers appear to be declining due to drainage of lowland habitat and changes to upland environments. BBS data shows the population in England to be stable since 1995. Numbers increase in winter as migrants from the boreal and subarctic zone move south.

Aggregations during the first two months involved 80 at Woodhouse Flash on 2nd January, 40 at Bubwith Bridge the next day, 33 at Hirst Courtney on 4th January and up to 55 at Pulfin & High Eske during the month. Additional maxima related to 52 at Spurn on 15th January, 58 at Flamborough the following day, 33 at Horbury on 29th January, 30 at Skelton Lake on 13th February, 30 at Blacktoft Sands the next day and a high of 39 at North Cave during February.

During the breeding season drumming was recorded at Dimmingdale, Scaling Dam, Sleddale and South Gare in the north–east. Present during the breeding season in three 1km squares at Fylingdales Moor and, in addition, three breeding pairs at RAF Fylingdales. Pulfin & High Eske hosted three displaying males, with another three territories at Swinemoor Common and one at Figham Common, while breeding may also have occurred at Brough Airfield Marsh. Near York, there were two territories at Strensall Common.

Drumming/chipping reported from at least 16 moorland sites west of Sheffield, including nine displaying on Low Moor at Upper Midhope, seven at Hollow Meadows and five on Langsett Moor. Potential breeding also recorded at many sites within the Barnsley area, both from the uplands and within the Dearne Valley. There were 12 territories in the Old Moor area and a pair bred at Edderthorpe Flash for the first time in many years, while the uplands around Harden hosted six pairs. During the spring/summer present at 12 breeding sites near Huddersfield and, further north, drumming recorded at Cold Edge, Flints, Ringstone Edge, Widdop Road, Withens Clough and Walshaw Dean, all near Halifax.

At least eight drummed at Swillington Ings on 10th April and at least three pairs bred, while a pair fledged young at Fairburn Ings. In Bradford, breeding probably occurred at Glovershaw, Barden, Reva Hill and Thornton Moor, while an adult and juvenile were flushed on Linton Moor, Wharfedale on 2nd July. A single was drumming at Staveley NR on 8th April, but there was no further evidence of breeding there, and three were drumming over Bishop Monkton Ings on 18th April. In addition, breeding recorded from high ground around Harrogate, with drumming males at several sites and a brood of two noted at one site. A survey of part of Nidderdale’s ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ located 20 pairs, with an estimated population of 69 pairs present within the entire AONB.

At Spurn, southbound passage started on 28th June, with a total of 108 heading south and 88 in–off by 19th December; highs included 24 on 11th September, 29 on 20th September and 17 on 2nd November.

Elsewhere, Thorne Moors attracted 58 on 10th August, Snaygill Ings 40 on 15th August and Swillington Ings held up to 50 during August/September. Blacktoft Sands recorded its highest numbers during autumn, with bests of 43 in September, 85 during October and 58 in November. A total of 63 flew south/west over Winterset on 26th September, with 40 at Edderthorpe Flash on 28th September and 52 at North Cave from 29th September into October. Other October maxima included 49 at Blue Man’s Bower, near Sheffield on 16th October, 200 at Wheldrake Ings the next day and 50 at Horbury on 20th November.

The acute cold snap at the year–end displaced numbers to the coast and Filey CP held 30 on 3rd December, with a further 12 heading south at nearby Hunmanby Gap the same day. Spurn hosted 50 on 5th December, with 35 seeking an ice–free environment at Flamborough the next day.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media* **O,0,2,0,1**
Vagrant; six previous records since the early 1900s

A scarce breeder in Norway and Sweden, which hold most of the declining European population. Smaller populations breed from Poland to Estonia. It also breeds east through European Russia and west & north Siberia and winters in sub–Saharan Africa.

A check of Spurn’s saltmarsh adjacent to the Canal on 4th September was rewarded when a single flushed at close range at 1815hrs (RH *et al.*). It then showed well in flight on two further occasions, before heading north and landing out of sight north of the Crown & Anchor.



Great Snipe 
Ray Scally

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 2/216
The main breeding areas are Fennoscandia and Russia, and immigrants from these areas are noted on the Yorkshire coast and winter in woodlands. Small numbers breed. BBS is not accurate for recording this species, but nationally it is thought to be declining rapidly, hence Amber list status.

Cold weather at the start of the year resulted in 18 at Skelton Castle on 6th January, 20 at Filey and 18 at nearby Reighton on 9th January and 32 at Flamborough the next day.

The forests fringing the North Yorkshire Moors seem to retain viable populations, with five observed roding in Guisborough Forest and a pair accompanied a juvenile at Dimmingdale on 12th June.

Two were roding over Thorne Moors during the breeding season. Along the Pennines, territorial males were observed at a minimum of ten sites near Sheffield, including four at Burbage Moor, four at Redmires and three at Canklow Woods. Near Barnsley, roding was recorded over Hugsett Wood at Higham (two), Langsett, Midhope Res, More Hall Res and at least five at Swinden. Two held territory at Holmbridge Wood, near Huddersfield, with similar near Halifax at Blake Dean, Hardcastle Craggs, Jumble Hole Clough, Knott Wood and two at Walshaw Dean. Near Bradford, roding noted at Hoodstorth and St Ives, and to the east, at Harewood Park. Pairs probably bred extensively in Upper Wharfedale, with a best of three roding over Timble Ings. Up to three were roding at Ellington Banks during the breeding season, with another near Holme, Darley on 14th June and probably bred in the Malham area on the Lings, Dalehead, Tarn Moss and Street Gate areas.

Ten sought shelter at Timble Ings on 3rd December, but amazing numbers were forced to the coast during the cold snap that started in late November. Filey hosted 11 on 3rd December, with eight at South Gare, 38 at Filey and 51 at Grimston the next day. A 2.5km cliff top walk between Long Nab and Cloughton Wyke produced a very impressive 136 on 5th December, when 12 were at Hornsea Mere. Filey logged 46 the next day, with 15 between Saltburn and Marske on 7th December. Spurn recorded 51 on 8th December, before a staggering 186 were logged across the Filey area on 9th December, when an additional 20 sought sanctuary at nearby Bempton Cliffs. Conditions then improved somewhat, and this was reflected in lower counts, before the onset of more harsh weather, in the week preceding Christmas. Eight were at Harpham and 59 at Spurn on 18th December, followed by 15 on Castle Hill, Scarborough and 30 at Spurn on 21st, 57 at Filey the following day and, finally, 34 at Flamborough on 26th December.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **A**
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*limosa*): rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. WeBS Status – Int. threshold 470: GB threshold 150

Counts on the Humber regularly exceed the GB threshold. The increase in the UK wintering population of the Icelandic *islandica* race continues; no more so than on the Humber estuary which became the UK’s second most important site in 2007. Flocks seen on the Yorkshire side are sometimes birds visiting from the main south bank population. The subspecies *limosa* has occasionally bred in the Lower Derwent Valley.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	268	72	184	168	76	44	74	407	170	436	1260	155

Along the Humber, Sunk Island hosted 780 on 3rd January and there were up to 75 at Paull Holme Strays during the same period. Further downstream, large numbers wintered on the Humber at Spurn, with a best of 700 in the middle of January, followed by 186 on 9th February, before rapidly decreasing to low double figures. In the second half of the year, Paull Holme Strays held 21 on 13th July, rising to 80 on 17th, 265 on 19th and 300 by 25th July. Paull Holme Strays attracted 300 on 25th August, before numbers reduced to leave 30 by 4th October, while Sunk Island hosted 710 on 18th September, with 700 remaining on 3rd October. The wintering flock at Spurn started to build from 11th October, with 130 present by the end of the month and a best of 720 on 9th November; with an additional 160 at Sunk Island the same day.

The Inner Humber held lower numbers, where Blacktoft Sands attracted a best of 55 during March and 91 on 16th April, before numbers ebbed to just 20 during the middle of May. Numbers built again from mid-summer, with 50 on 21st June, up to 72 during July and 111 on 10th August. Numbers then dropped at Blacktoft to leave 42 on 20th October and the last six on 24th November.

Inland records were scarce during the first quarter, with a single at Bubwith Ings from 8th–17th January and another at North Cave Wetlands on 5th March. Low numbers were present at Wheldrake Ings from mid-March, with a maximum of 25 from 19th–25th and, elsewhere, three visited Old Moor/Wombwell Ings on 22nd/23rd March.

Spring passage peaked in the middle of April, with 61 at both Smallways and Nosterfield, 46 at Wheldrake Ings, 41 at Swillington Ings and 29 at Potteric Carr all on 19th April. The next day there were 81 at Potteric and 54 at Old Moor, while North Duffield Carrs hosted 70 and Potteric still held 65 on 21st April.

Smaller numbers featured across inland waters from mid-summer, with passage being much more protracted than during spring. A flock of 14 at Nosterfield NR on 8th July represented the first appreciable aggregation, with 12 at Old Moor and a similar number at Lingham Lake the next day and eight over Pugney’s CP on 14th July. The latter half of July witnessed heavier passage and included 14 at Edderthorpe Flash on 22nd, 28 at Swillington Ings on 25th, ten at Old Moor on 27th, 23 at Swillington Ings on 28th/29th and, finally, 14 at Nosterfield NR on 31st July. Eight dropped in at North Cave Wetlands on 10th August, with 12 at Swillington Ings on 18th August, 11 at Pepper Arden on 27th August, 25 at Lingham Lake on 28th August and 12 at Pepper Arden on 10th September. Unusually late, two headed north-west over Orgreave Lakes on 6th November.

Passage at Spurn took place from 1st July and 26th August and, in total, 164 flew south and 55 came in off, including 31 on 7th July, 25 on 10th, 27 on 21st and 28 on 31st July, followed by 28 on 13th and 30 on 28th August. Elsewhere, southbound passage along the coast was above average, starting with 15 at Flamborough on 8th July, followed by nine at Flamborough and five at Filey on 11th July. An impressive 41 headed south at Flamborough on 16th July, with 20 south there the following day. Filey Dams hosted 14 on 18th July, with an additional 21 south off Filey Brigg the same day, while eight tracked south at Scalby Mills on 20th July, 25 at Flamborough on 9th August and, finally, 25 headed south at Filey on 13th August.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 620

Breeds in the Arctic tundra, the nominate race *lapponica* wintering on estuaries around the North Sea. Winters on the Humber, but many birds probably leave in February for the Wadden Sea. Has declined dramatically nationally in the last five years.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1754	473	1835	20	11	0	138	932	33	97	1511	161
South Tees	50	130	9	0	0	0	0	5	12	32	20	60

On the Humber, there were 950 at Sunk Island on 3rd January, followed by 450 there on 1st March and, after numbers ebbed, a spring peak of 400 on 7th May. Further downstream, Paull Holme Strays hosted 100 on 14th March. In the second half of the year, Spurn’s largest count related to 450 on the Humber on 22nd July. Sunk Island held 190 on 13th November, with 42 present at Paull Holme Strays on 20th November, increasing to 90 there on 27th. Finally, there were 170 at Sunk Island on 12th December.

In spring, 260 headed east over Spurn, including 160 on 14th March and 90 on 25th April. In autumn, 122 flew south and 34 came in off at Spurn between 28th June and 8th November; the only double-figure counts referred to 11 on 15th and 26 on 16th July. Elsewhere, 40 tracked north over Flamborough and Filey and 19 did similarly off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 7th September. The next day 19 passed through Flamborough and four flew east and eight north-west over Buckton, with eight again over the latter site on 9th September.

The first inland record related to a single over Broomhill Flash on 16th January, with singles at North Duffield Carrs the next day, over Windy Bank Res, Meltham on 6th February, over Broomhill Flash on 26th February and Lingham Lake on 27th March. Lingham Lake hosted another from 24th–26th April, with further singles at Warland, Halifax on 24th April, over Soil Hill/Thornton Moor the next day, at both Orgreave Lakes and Wombwell Ings on 12th May, at Great Heck on 13th May and, finally, one lingered in the Wombwell Ings/Old Moor area from 20th–23rd May.

Post-breeding singles visited Thornton Moor on 11th July and 7th August, followed by six heading east over North Cave on 4th September, singles at Blackmoorfoot Res and Winterset on 10th September, with another over Winterset the following day. At the end of September four flew west over Winterset on 22nd, one visited Swillington Ings on 29th, with another at Smallways the next day. Pepper Arden hosted four on 2nd October, with further singles at Swillington Ings on 3rd, Blacktoft Sands on 27th October and Winterset on 9th November.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* **A**
Red list: uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant
Breeds from northeast Greenland east to Siberia, with a small population in northern Scotland, migrating overland and along the coast to winter in Africa.

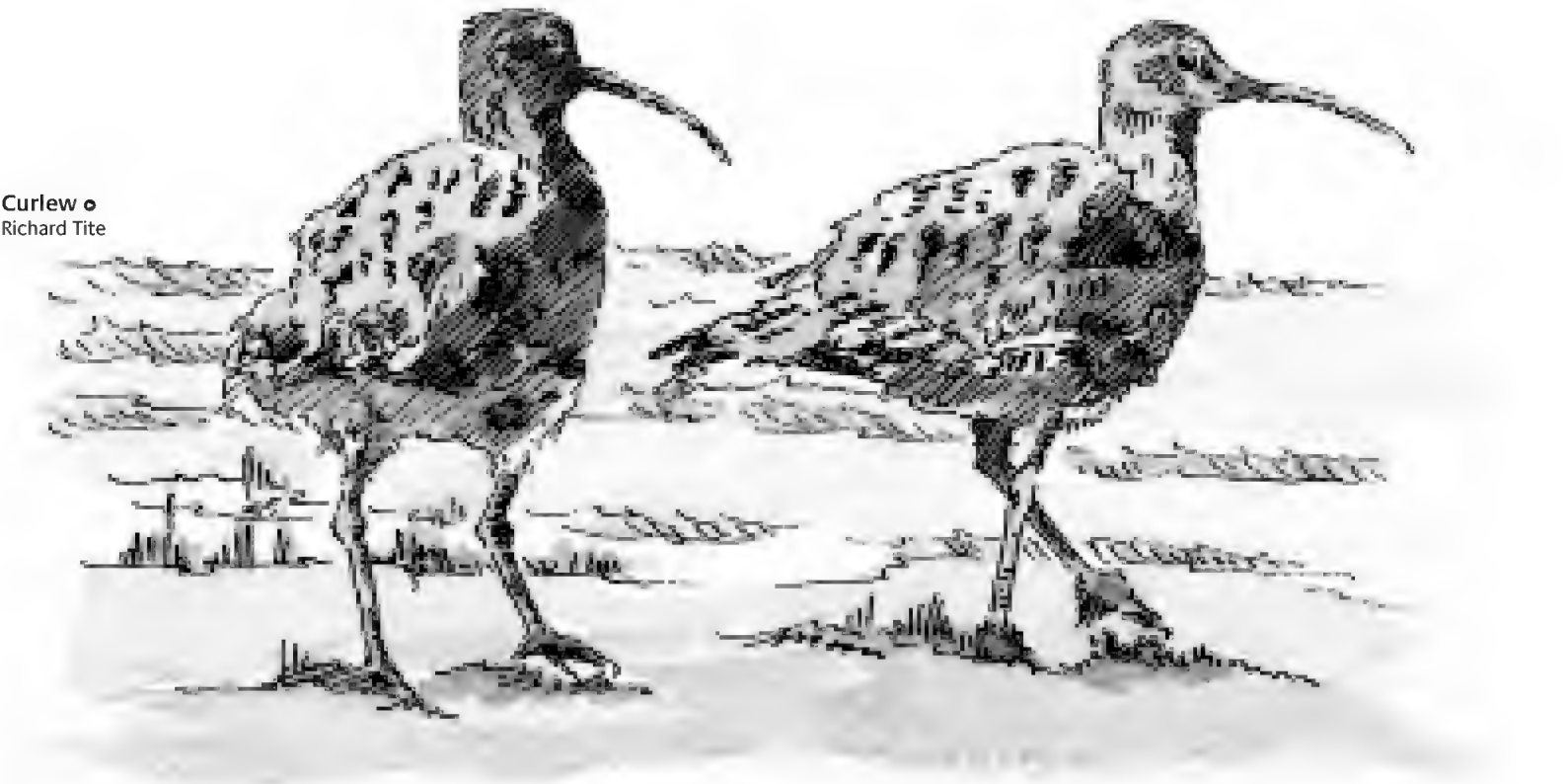
The first returning migrants appeared over Pugney’s CP on 4th April, at Sammy’s Point on 8th, Huggin Carr near Hatfield Moors on 12th, Potteric Carr on 14th and Leconfield on 15th, while Thorne Moors hosted 12 on 17th April. Once again the Lower Derwent Valley attracted good numbers during spring, with the first five there on 18th April. The following day 24 were present and this increased to 48 at Wheldrake by 22nd April. Numbers at the latter site then peaked at 101 on 27th April, before dropping markedly, with only 22 remaining by 1st May. Notable aggregations at other sites included 36 at Rodley NR on 19th April, the latter consisting of double Leeds’ previous record tally. Flixton Carr also attracted good numbers in the latter half of April, including a peak of 32 on 28th. During May, there were 16 over the River Hull near Weel and 17 at Sunk Island on 9th, followed by 15 flying north over Flasks Lake on 15th. Spring passage at Spurn totaled 99 heading east and 36 in off the sea, with bests of 19 on 18th April and 54 east on 9th May.

Seven over Ferry Brinks near Fly Flats on 16th August was notable, although most activity from mid-summer onwards appeared confined to the coast. At Spurn 985 flew south and 87 came in off between 17th June and 11th September. Passage peaked from mid-July to mid-August, with highs at Spurn of 171 on 16th July, 94 the next day, 105 on 21st July and 53 on 9th August. A total of 235 flew south at Filey between 10th July and 13th September and included a best of 82 on 23rd July, when 43 headed south off Scalby Mills. Flamborough’s best counts related to 83 heading south on 16th July, 52 the next day, 51 on 26th July and then 56 on 6th August. Elsewhere, there were 26 at Hornsea Mere on 14th August and 18 at South Gare on 20th August.

Two that flew south over Orgreave on 14th September represented the last inland record, while further east, there were four at Spurn on 26th and a single at Paull Holme Strays the following day. Finally, one appeared at Spurn on 5th October.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 113/216: -11% (-30) 1995-2009, -4% (+-5) 2009-10
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 8500: GB threshold 1500
Breeds from Ireland to central Siberia, including both upland and lowland Yorkshire. Breeding numbers continue to decline regionally and nationally, hence its UK BAP status.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1685	787	1947	462	40	12	1427	1540	468	653	1086	176
South Tees	18	21	15	6	1	0	41	30	82	51	13	24



Curlew
Richard Tite

Significant counts along the Humber early on included 310 at Patrington on 21st February and 200 at Sunk Island on 27th February, while along the coast, 210 at Gristhorpe Bay, Filey on 17th January represented a record local count and Scalby Lodge hosted 57 the following day. Inland, Swillington Ings held 43 in January, 73 in February and a maximum of 48 during March. Notable counts at other inland sites included 150 at Askwith on 15th January, 214 at Denton, Wharfedale on 24th January, 54 at Hatfield Moors during the first half of February, a maximum of 251 at Nosterfield NR and 51 at Knotford Nook in mid February and, finally, 400 at Otley on 19th February. As the spring return to the western hills gathered pace, there were 62 at Walshaw Dean on 15th March, 120 at Beaver Dyke Res the next day and a maximum of 700 roosted at Otley Wetland during the same period.

An impressive 968 headed east at Spurn from 15th March and 3rd June, with most activity in April, including 125 on 16th, 454 on 17th, 155 on 19th and 125 on 21st. In the extreme north-east, four pairs bred at Dimmingdale, three on Easington High Moor, with additional pairs at Scaling Dam and near Yarm. As well as the population on the North Yorkshire Moors, several pairs bred on The Carrs inland of Scarborough, including Wykeham Ings, Willerby Carr (two) and at Thornton-le-Dale. A male held territory near the cliff top at Buckton and two pairs probably bred near Beswick, north of Beverley. The lowland meadows around York support a population, with displaying males at Middlethorpe Ings, Naburn, North Duffield Carrs and Thorganby Ings, with two holding territory on Strensall Common and three near Byland Abbey. A pair took up territory at Winterset and displayed up to mid April, although there were no further records after 16th May. A relatively healthy population remained in the South Pennines/Dales, as indicated by seven territories at Redmires, 12-15 territories at Harden and 20 displaying around Flight Hill, near Huddersfield. Further north, a partial survey of Nidderdale’s ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ located 105 pairs, with an estimated 373 pairs thought to be present across the entire AONB. Post-breeding, 100 gathered on Tarn Moss, Malham at the end of June/early July.

In the autumn, 336 flew south and 97 came in off the sea at Spurn between 19th June and 18th November and included 39 on 2nd July, 37 on 7th and 34 on both 11th and 15th July. Spurn’s Humber shore attracted 220 on both 7th July and 12th September, while upstream, 230 gathered at Sunk Island on 12th August. Along the coast there were 151 at Gristhorpe Bay on 15th November, 71 at Long Nab on 20th November and 64 at Flamborough on 3rd December. Inland, Swillington Ings attracted 51 in October, 50 in November and a record winter count of 94 during December. Other notable flocks related to a Bradford record of 850 near Ben Rhydding on 13th November and maxima of 51 at Tophill Low, 57 at Nosterfield NR and 60 at Ripon Racecourse also during November.

Many sites recorded much lower numbers during December, many clearly fleeing the cold snap, with 240 at Preston-under-Scar near Leyburn on 9th December a notable exception. Cold weather movements included 25 heading south at Hunmanby Gap on 3rd December, nine west over Windy Bank Res near Huddersfield on 6th December, eight at Blackmoorfoot Res on 13th December, 14 south over Bolton Ings the next day and 18 south-west there on 24th December. Unusually, Pugney’s CP attracted a wintering flock of up to 18 from 8th December through to the year-end.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder in north and west; passage migrant elsewhere. BBS 11/216
Breeds on stony upland rivers and reservoirs in the county, migrating south to winter as far as southern Africa. Passage includes birds moving to and from breeding grounds in Scotland and Fennoscandia. Has been declining across all European countries since the 1990s.

An early arrival graced the River Wharfe at Burley on 28th March, followed by singles near Bolton Abbey on 2nd April, at Thrybergh CP and Old Moor and two at Grimwith Res on 4th. Subsequently migrants appeared at Barden on 7th April, West Tanfield the next day and Royd Moor Res, Swillington Ings and two at Pulfin & High Eske on 9th April. Spring passage included seven at Pugney’s CP on 19th April and 15 at Flamborough on 1st May. Four pairs bred at Redmires Res, probably five pairs held territory on Langsett Res, with another at Midhope Res. Bred successfully at Broomhead Res and Winscar Res and pairs present on both Ingbirchworth and Windleden Res, with a pair displaying on the river in the Little Don Valley for the first time in several years. Near Huddersfield, breeding proved at Digley Res, Isle of Skye Quarry, Swellands Res and Winscar Res and was strongly suspected at another nine sites. Immediately to the north near Halifax, pairs bred at Cold Edge Dams, Fly Flats and Withens Clough and suspected at several other sites. Pairs probably bred at eight sites within the Bradford recording area, raising at least 13 young. A good year within Upper Wharfedale, as indicated by up to 15 between Barden Bridge and Water’s Laithe and a further seven between Linton Church and Lower Grass Wood on 26th April. An impressive 16 pairs located at Grimwith Res on 9th May. Also indicative of a better than average year, were additional breeding records

from Scargill, Fewston, Kex Gill, Strid Woods, Barden Moor, Grimwith, Mossy Moor, Grassington, Lower Grass Wood and Hawkswick. Breeding records near Harrogate included six pairs in the Flasks/Kiln Lakes area, with 17 individuals at Gouthwaite Res on 13th June indicating the strength of the local population.

Post-breeding flocks included nine at Wykeham Lakes on 5th July, seven at Ulley CP the next day, ten at Orgreave Lakes on 7th July, eight on Broomhill Flash on 10th and eight at Smallways on 14th July. The latter half of July produced 11 at Brough Haven on 17th, eight at Old Moor and seven at Lingham Lake on 18th, up to eight at Swillington Ings, eight at Nosterfield NR on 20th and seven at Filey Dams on 26th. Flamborough then hosted 12 on 5th August, with ten at Scaling Dam on 13th August.

Late migrants included two at Scaling Dam and one at Nosterfield NR on 2nd October, followed by singles at Flamborough on 4th, Swillington Ings on 6th, North Cave the next day, North Marine Drive, Scarborough on 8th, both Rodley NR and Old Moor on 10th and Scaling Dam and Pugney’s CP on 12th. Later still, two visited Thorpe Marsh on 17th October and there was a particularly late single at Tophill Low on 14th November.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn: some over-winter

Breeds in the boreal zone from Norway eastwards, occurring on passage at inland waters and gravel pits and regularly in winter on freshwater streams, ponds and wetlands.

Several wetlands attracted singles during the first winter period and, in addition, there were two at Dewsbury SF in January, two at Kelk from January–March, up to two at Ripon City Quarry from February–March and maxima of three at both Hatfield Moors and Old Moor during March.

There were several single figure counts during spring passage, with bests of five at Nicholson’s Lagoon on 13th April, four at Wykeham Lakes on 17th April and up to six at Dewsbury SF on several April dates.

Autumn passage brought larger numbers, starting with six at Dewsbury SF on 14th July, six at Filey Dams on 23rd July, eight at Edderthorpe Flash and 12 at nearby Old Moor on 28th July. Numbers increased further during August, with eight at Filey Dams, seven at both Gembling (near Driffild) and at Spurn on 7th, 16 at Blacktoft Sands and eight at Snaygill Ings the next day, 13 at Thorne Moors and seven at nearby Hatfield Moors on 10th, eight at Tophill Low on 12th August and ten at Sunk Island on 15th August. Old Moor proved the most popular location, with 29 present on 21st August and 23 remaining on 5th September, while Riccall hosted nine on 9th September.

The final two months witnessed up to six in residence on the edge of Hatfield Moors, four at Old Moor and two at Dewsbury SF, while a single at Broomhead Res on 25th December was unusual.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant; occasionally over-winters

A passage migrant from northern Scandinavia and subarctic regions further east.

The first records along the Humber came on 3rd April, when singles appeared at both Spurn and Whitton Sands. Spurn then recorded singles on six subsequent spring dates, until the last on 3rd May, while Blacktoft Sands hosted three on 23rd April.

The first returned to Blacktoft Sands on 11th June, with a maximum of eight present before the month end. Spurn recorded its first returning individual on 27th June, with singles noted sporadically until 12th October, followed by an isolated record on 19th November. Further upriver, Blacktoft Sands recorded monthly peaks of 12 on 29th July, 21 on 22nd August, 34 on 6th September and 11 on 29th October. There were up to three at Sunk Island from 10th August, with a best of four on 12th September and the last on 17th October.

Away from the estuary, the first graced Pulfin & High Eske on 9th–11th April, followed by singles in the North Duffield/Wheldrake Ings area from 17th–30th April and Fairburn Ings from 9th–12th May. Mid-summer produced one on Hatfield Moors on 16th June and others in residence at Potteric Carr from 26th June until 1st July, Staveley NR on 10th/11th July and at Nosterfield NR on 27th July.

Activity increased substantially from mid August, starting with a single at Nosterfield NR on 13th, up to four at Potteric Carr from 14th August until the month end and a single at Old Moor on 15th August. Lone individuals then lingered at Seamer Tip Pools from 17th–21st August, Swillington Ings from 17th–24th and at Nosterfield NR on 18th/19th. A single overflowed Winterset on 19th August, followed by one at Edderthorpe Flash on 20th/21st August, with perhaps the same in residence at Old Moor from 22nd August through to the end of the month. One at Wilsic on 21st August preceded singles at Winterset on 25th, Out Newton the next day, over Littlethorpe on 27th, Winterset on 30th and, finally, Thrybergh CP on 31st August.

Present almost daily during September in the Dearne Valley, with up to three in the Old Moor and Edderthorpe Flash areas. Potteric Carr hosted a single on most dates until 16th September, with two present on 8th. Elsewhere, Swillington Ings hosted one from 4th–18th September, with singles at North Cave on 4th, Thorne

Moors the next day, Filey Dams from 5th–9th September, with two present there on 8th. A lone individual at Fairburn Ings on 6th September preceded singles at Wykeham Lakes on 8th, Scaling Dam the following day, Silverwood Pit Top on 11th and, finally, one flew north over Marine Drive on 24th September.

In the final quarter, a single visited Potteric Carr on 14th October, while up to three were present at Old Moor until the last on 9th November.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters. BBS 1/216

Breeds in north and west Scotland east through northern Scandinavia to Kamchatka. Although wintering in the UK in record numbers, birds generally pass through the county to winter further south.

A single again wintered at Ripon City Quarry from the start of the year until the end of March and occasionally visited nearby sites, including Littlethorpe and Little Studley Meadows. In addition, one appeared at Whitby Gas Works on 31st January.

North Cave hosted one on 7th March, before the main spring movement took place from April, with a single at Swillington Ings on 3rd, two at East Cottingwith on 9th and one at Redcar Tarn, near Bradford on 11th amongst the first. There were no large parties, with highs of three at Swillington Ings on 30th April, three at Sunk Island on 3rd May and three at Watton NR and four at North Cave on 9th May.

The return started from mid-June with several areas, such as Bradford, reaffirming that passage is now at lower levels than during the 90s. Up to 12 were in residence at Fairburn Ings during the second half of July, with an impressive 34 at Patrington on 15th July.

During August, a maximum of seven lingered at Swillington Ings and five at nearby Skelton Lake. Elsewhere, there were seven at Beacon Ponds on 12th August, up to four at Filey Dams from 12th August, six at Tophill Low on 13th August, six at Flamborough the next day, 15 at Sunk Island on 15th August and six at North Cave on 16th. Three dropped in at Ingbirchworth Res and seven graced Hatfield Moors on 18th August, before Blacktoft Sands recorded its highest tally of the month, 16 on 22nd August, when four also overflowed Redmires. Nosterfield NR attracted 11 on 23rd August, with nine at Wombwell Ings the next day, 15 at Old Moor on 26th and 13 visited Pepper Arden on 27th August.

Notable September counts included four at Rodley NR on 1st, eight at Sunk Island on 3rd, four at Potteric Carr on 3rd/4th, five over Orgreave Lakes on 7th and six at Pepper Arden on 10th September. In the latter half of the month, there were nine at Spurn and 11 at nearby Beacon Ponds on 23rd September, followed by ten at Beacon Ponds on 7th October and 15 at Sunk Island on 12th October.

The wintering individual again returned to the Ripon City Quarry area by October, with additional records at Old Moor from 1st–14th November, Spurn on 6th November and Thorpe Marsh on 5th December.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **A**

Amber list: scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn

Like the previous species, breeds in the boreal zone, but does breed in northern Scotland and winters further south in the Tropics.

Two at Spurn were relatively early on 24th April, followed by others at North Cave on 26th, North Cave again on 28th, Wombwell Ings/Broomhill Flash on 28th/29th, North Duffield Carrs on 29th April and, finally, one at Swillington Ings from 29th April until 2nd May.

A single remained at Nosterfield NR on 1st/2nd May, with another at Old Moor on 2nd and three at Wheldrake Ings the next day. Singles arrived at Great Heck and Swinemoor Common on 6th May, with the latter relocating to Pulfin & High Eske later the same day. Several arrived on 7th May, including three at Fairburn Ings and singles at Nosterfield NR, Old Moor and North Cave (the latter until 9th) and Watton NR. Two were present at Watton the next day, with one still present on 9th. A single dropped in at Spurn on 8th May and Pulfin & High Eske also hosted two on 8th, with three present there the following day. Singles at Great Heck and Fairburn Ings on 10th May preceded two at Swillington Ings on 11th. One remained in residence at Pulfin & High Eske on 12th May, when another graced Houghton Washlands and a single appeared at Tophill Low on 13th. Further singles were at Old Moor on 14th, North Cave from 14th–17th May, Flasks Lake on 15th and another arrived at Ripon Parks the same day and stayed until 16th May. Lone individuals then visited Swillington Ings on 17th May, Hatfield Moors the next day, North Cave from 22nd–27th May and Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake on 23rd May. Two dropped in at Swinemoor Common on 25th May, with singles at Brough Airfield Marsh, Houghton Washlands and Great Heck the same day. Hatfield Moors hosted one on 27th May and the month closed with singles at Swinemoor Common and Scalby Lodge Pond on 31st May.

June produced only two records, singles at Staveley NR on 7th and Blacktoft Sands on 28th.

A single at Smallways on 2nd July was followed by two at North Cave and one at Wombwell Ings on 8th and one at Fairburn Ings on 10th July. Thereafter, there were singles at Hatfield Moors on 18th July and others at Pulfin & High Eske, Paull Holme Strays and Sunk Island on 19th, three at Filey Dams from 21st–27th July, with four present on the latter date. Nosterfield NR hosted singles on nine dates between 23rd July and 24th August.

August started with one at Filey Dams on 1st, a single at Swillington Ings from 4th–12th and two present there from 13th–15th. Low single figures were ever present at Blacktoft Sands from 4th–27th August, with a best of four on 7th. A single remained at Broomhill Flash on 8th/9th August, with two in residence at Potteric Carr from 10th–26th, with three present on 23rd August. Staveley NR held a single on 10th/11th August, with one at Hatfield Moors on 11th, another again at Staveley NR on 14th and a lone individual at Flamborough on 14th/15th August. Others appeared along the coastal fringe appeared at Filey Dams and Spurn on 15th August, followed by one at Hornsea Mere from 18th–21st August. A single remained in residence at Old Moor from 18th–23rd August and the month closed with singles at Spurn on 19th/20th, Sunk Island on 23rd and Snaygill Ings on 28th.

A single at Thorne Moor on 2nd September, was joined by two others from 3rd–5th, a long-stayer remained at Swillington Ings from 4th–22nd September, Blacktoft Sands hosted one from 7th–11th, with additional singles at Fairburn Ings on 8th/9th and Thorne Moors on 16th September. The year’s last appeared at Scaling Dam and Nosterfield NR on 30th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 12/216

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1300: GB threshold 1200

Nationally wintering numbers have been falling. Small numbers breed in saltmarsh along the Humber, only a few elsewhere on grassy upland sites and some wet meadows, but nationally the breeding population is also declining.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1602	710	1347	1886	166	28	1890	1341	1596	1127	1890	267
South Tees	190	444	377	251	0	0	63	130	217	496	206	547

Along the Humber, Sunk Island attracted 100 on 23rd January, with 124 at Patrington on 21st February. Passage through Sunk Island peaked in late March/early April, with 140 on 20th March increasing to 350 on 30th. Numbers still remained high in mid-April, although 320 at Sunk Island on 18th soon ebbed and only 60 remained by 3rd May. Post-breeding numbers built on the Humber from mid-July, with 130 at Sunk Island on 4th, increasing to 400 by 24th July. Sunk Island hosted 700 on 2nd August, rising to 800 on 13th, while further downstream, there were 1900 on the Humber shore at Spurn on 24th August. September opened with 750 at Sunk Island on 3rd and Blacktoft Sands recorded its maximum of 93 on 9th. There were lower numbers at Sunk Island over the last two months, with 200 on 1st October and 125 remaining on 13th November.

Coastal records included 400 roosting at Redcar Boating Lake in February and 105 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 2nd March. Filey CP seems to consistently attract lower numbers than previous years, with a best of 60 on 27th February. Immediately to the north, Gristhorpe Bay attracted 35 on 17th January, while Filey CP hosted 66 on 15th December.

Early on, the largest inland flocks related to 111 at Pulfin & High Eske on 19th January, with 110 still present on 2nd March, 158 at North Cave from late January through until late February and 120 at Bubwith Ings on 7th February. Counts during the last couple of months were lower, with many escaping the vagaries of the cold spell, with 47 at Pulfin & High Eske on 22nd November notable.

In the north-east, a pair bred at Scaling Dam and fledged two young. Four pairs were present on Swinemoor Common on 5th May, with four fledged juveniles present on 15th June, while nearby, two pairs displayed at Pulfin & High Eske on 15th May. There were only three pairs at Blacktoft Sands, a reduction in numbers probably due to the drought-like conditions. Three pairs bred at Potteric Carr and, near York, a pair and an additional male held territory at Heslington Tillmire in early April and Ellerton Ings hosted a pair during June.

The Old Moor area remains a favoured location, where at least 22 pairs bred, including ten pairs at Wombwell Ings, seven pairs at Old Moor, four pairs on Broomhill Flash and a further pair on Bolton Ings. Seven pairs were present around Edderthorpe Flash, with a pair present on Ferry Moor Wetlands during the summer. A pair probably bred at Swaithe, but it appears lost as a breeder at Harden and other upland breeding sites near Barnsley, most likely due to drainage and other ‘improvement’ work. Pairs probably bred at two sites near Huddersfield and

proved at Cold Edge Dams and Whiteholme near Halifax. Three pairs fledged young at Swillington Ings and three pairs also bred at Fairburn Ings.

In mid-Wharfedale, there were six pairs in residence around Rombalds Moor and Kex Gill and young also noted at Reva Hill and High Royds. In Upper Wharfedale, there were four juveniles and three small young present on Mossy Moor on 26th May and an adult accompanied a juvenile at Kilnsey on 24th June. In addition, two pairs bred at Snaygill Ings. At Nosterfield NR between eight and ten pairs bred, a 33% decrease over the previous year and possibly due to increased winter mortality during the harsh weather. Breeding records from high ground at other sites in the Harrogate district also reflected this downward trend. A partial survey of Nidderdale’s ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ located nine pairs, with an estimated 31 pairs thought to be present across the entire AONB. The Malham area hosted three pairs during the breeding season.

In the autumn, 1429 flew south and 281 came in off at Spurn between 26th June and 29th September, including 136 on 7th July, 413 on 16th, 148 on 17th, 110 on 18th July and 172 on 10th August. At Filey, the first sign of a return passage took place on 29th June, when 15 headed south. In total 231 were logged heading past Filey, with a best of 48 south on 18th July. Other coastal counts included 202 flying south at Flamborough on 16th July and 113 similarly past Scalby Mills on 20th July.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1500: GB threshold 500

Birds breeding in northeast Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia winter on rocky or coarse sand coasts, and sections of estuary with fucoid covered cobbles from the North Sea south to West Africa, although they can roost in dockland areas.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	401	27	28	62	4	7	4	3	32	20	25	12
South Tees	65	124	198	45	2	0	1	147	94	69	60	90

In the north-east, the best tally related to 80 roosting on the beach at Saltburn on 13th December. Scarborough Harbour hosted 58 on 2nd January, with 53 present on 12th December. Filey Brigg held 22 on 3rd January and a best of 33 on 27th February, while 18 were still present on 5th May, with seven remaining in June. Returning migrants began to appear at Filey in July, with 28 on 24th, increasing to 35 on 12th August, and the wintering flock peaked at 50 on 9th December. Flamborough hosted 52 on 1st February, with the year’s best of 69 on 28th October.

Good numbers featured regularly around Bridlington Harbour and its immediate environs, with 50 on 16th April, 128 on 1st September and 50 remaining on 16th November. Ten were present at Barmston during January, with up to eight during November. It was ever present on the Humber shore at Spurn, with a peak of 72 on 25th August. However, even larger numbers were located along the north bank of the Humber, with an impressive 380 present at Alexandra Dock, Hessle and Hull Wall End on 24th January.

The first inland record related to two at Swillington Ings on 19th April, with a single there two days later. Singles followed at Fairburn Ings on 6th May and Winterset on 9th, with two at Swillington Ings on 10th and another duo at Nosterfield NR on 12th May. Swillington again proved productive, with a single on 13th May and six the following day. One at Chelker on 15th May preceded two at Old Moor on 16th, with almost daily sightings of up to two there until 25th. Hatfield Moors hosted a single on 17th May, followed by one at Swillington Ings on 19th May and a different individual the next day, while there were two at Rother Valley CP also on 20th May. A single stayed at Hatfield Moors from 23rd May, two were present from 27th May, rising to three on 29th May. Further east, North Cave hosted a single on 25th May and three on 29th. Inland records were predictably scarce in the summer, with a single at Smallways on 3rd June, two at Swillington the next day, another at the same location on 13th July, followed by singles at Nosterfield NR on 15th, 18th and 20th July.

Three overflowed Swillington Ings and two visited Winterset on 10th August, with a single at Edderthorpe Flash the next day. One stayed at Old Moor on 13th/14th August, with two at Swillington Ings on 14th and another duo at Old Moor on 23rd August. August ended with a lone individual on Hatfield Moors on 24th/25th, two at Old Moor on 28th and one remaining at Orgreave Lakes from 30th August until 1st September. The final records related to singles at Thornton Moor on 5th September, Blacktoft Sands on 22nd September and one heading east over Old Moor on 5th October.

Between 14th July and 2nd November, 289 flew south and 20 came in off at Spurn, including highs of 23 on 20th July, 35 on 21st July and 93 on 10th August. The only other appreciable ‘vis mig’ count related to 17 south off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 26th July.

A colour–ringed adult on Filey Brigg on 16th July had been tagged in the Netherlands on 2nd March 2007.

RED–NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* **A** 1,4,0,3,2
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

A common breeding bird throughout the Arctic regions; most of the Western Palearctic population breeds in Iceland and Sweden. Winters in the Arabian Sea.

A juvenile rested briefly offshore at Flamborough on 6th August (PC). Spurn’s latest ever record related to a juvenile/first–winter that spent an hour on Canal Scrape on 9th November, before visiting Clubley’s Scrape for 30 minutes before departing (PCo: RJB: CHi *et al.*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* **A** 8,38,14,9,16
Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north–westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

The year’s first appeared on the Humber off Chalk Bank, Spurn before departing south on 26th September (GJS: JMT *et al.*). A first–winter then lingered at Hornsea Mere from 12th–14th October (GRB *et al.*), with the next in the mouth of the Humber at Spurn on 16th October (JHe), with probably the same again on 20th (AR).

The last in October appeared on Bewholme Hall Pond on 27th.

A single rested on the sea off Flamborough on 7th November before heading north (RAB *et al.*), with perhaps the same also off Filey Brigg the same day. A single flew south past Long Nab on 8th November (NWA) and two lingered off Filey Brigg on 10th (JS). Hornsea Mere again hosted a single on 16th November, a lone individual rested on the sea off Filey Brigg on 19th (JS) and the flurry of records ended when one flew onto the Humber at Spurn Point on 22nd November (PCo).

A first–winter female off Filey’s Coble Landing at dusk on 2nd December, was unfortunately picked up dead the next day (SC).

There were three records away from the coastal strip, starting with a winter–plumaged adult at Swillington Ings for an hour on 29th September (GR *et al.*). Perhaps the same then visited nearby Fairburn Ings on 2nd October. A single at Bradley Ings on 18th November relocated to Cononley, where it stayed until 21st (KM: RHP *et al.*) and represented only the second record for the Bradford area.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* **A**
Uncommon coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in circumpolar subarctic regions, migrating south, sometimes overland, to winter in the southern oceans.

The Flamborough seawatch team logged 201 bird/days during the year, including its first two singles in July, when Spurn recorded one heading north on 7th July, followed by an adult south on 15th and another flew north at Filey on 29th July. There were nine bird/days during August at Flamborough, with a best of three on 12th, while singles flew south at Spurn on 25th and 27th and three flew south at Cowbar on 30th August. An adult headed south at Filey on 2nd September and a total of 11 bird/days during the month at Flamborough, included a best of four on 18th. An adult and a juvenile headed north at South Gare, a juvenile went south at Skinningrove, two headed south at Long Nab and seven tracked past Spurn on 24th September.

October proved to be the busiest month, with 136 bird/days at Flamborough and an immature flew south at Filey on 14th October. A significant movement took place during strong northerlies on 16th, with two north and one south at Long Nab, another north at Marine Drive, an adult went south at Filey, an impressive 95 flew north at Flamborough and 14 flew past Spurn. Later in the month, Spurn logged five on 24th October. November produced 37 bird/days at Flamborough, including 23 flying past there on 7th, when a further three went south at Filey. A single again headed south at Filey and 26 were logged at Spurn on 9th, followed by a single south off Long Nab the next day. Two flew north past Long Nab and five were logged at Spurn on 22nd November. There were several records during the first half of December, starting with three north at Flamborough on 1st, a juvenile lingered off Marine Drive and South Bay, Scarborough on 4th/5th and another appeared on the beach at Spurn on 6th. Finally, one headed south at Flamborough on 10th December, followed by another north there on 14th.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland
Breeds in northern Scotland and widely around the Arctic and subarctic, migrating along the Yorkshire coast and wintering at sea usually in the southern hemisphere, but some linger further north.

The population level of this species is currently suffering, as illustrated by an utter lack of loitering birds in the mouth of the Tees; high double–figure counts were regular in late summer, with a best of 264 as recently as 1988.

Somewhat surprisingly, Spurn recorded the most during the year, with a total of 1247 bird/days, while there were the equivalent of 610 at Flamborough and 230 bird/days at Filey.

Spring was relatively quiet at Spurn, with a mere six bird/days logged after the first on 18th April. May produced two singles at Flamborough and a single headed north at Long Nab on 27th. June was equally quiet, with one north at Filey on 20th and two singles off Flamborough.

Autumn passage started with a single at Spurn on 11th July, but it wasn’t until mid August that numbers picked up. Spurn recorded 51 on both 25th and 26th August, while 21 headed south at Long Nab and 160 flew south at Spurn on 29th. The following day, 18 headed south at Long Nab, with 53 at Filey, 43 at Flamborough and 61 at Spurn. A total of 36 south at Spurn on 17th September was the prelude to a much larger movement on 24th, when 60 flew south at South Gare, 31 at Long Nab, 95 at Flamborough and a noteworthy 475 headed south at Spurn, the highest count there since 1984. October maxima involved 27 heading north at Flamborough and 31 at Spurn in the northerly blast on 16th. Seven flew south at South Gare, one at Long Nab and eight at Filey on 9th November, followed by singles at Flamborough on 18th and, finally, the year’s last on 30th November.

The only inland record related to a juvenile at Scaling Dam from 30th August to 5th September (DP: ECP *et al.*).

LONG–TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* **A** 34,54,35,15,55
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county. Increased observer awareness led to more records in the 1990s, but recent years have been relatively poor. Numbers depend on the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

An improved showing with Flamborough’s best year since 2005, Filey’s since 2006 and also considered above average at Spurn. The first record related to an adult north off Marine Drive on 22nd July. Two adults headed south at Flamborough on 14th August, followed by a second–summer north there on 27th. Six adults and a juvenile went south at Filey and an adult flew past Spurn on 29th August, followed by two adults and three juveniles that headed south at Cowbar the next day.

September opened with juveniles north at Flamborough on 5th, south at Spurn the following day and south off Marine Drive on 7th.

Two adults south at Flamborough on 8th preceded a single south on 9th and three juveniles there on 11th. An adult and two juveniles again went south at Flamborough on 16th, with a juvenile north at Flamborough and one of similar age south at Spurn the next day and two juveniles flew north at Spurn on 18th. Strong northerlies on 24th September induced another movement, including a single south at South Gare, three juveniles north at Long Nab, another north at Filey and ten south at Spurn. Two juveniles flew south at Flamborough, with another similarly at Spurn on 25th, followed by an adult north at Long Nab and a juvenile off Flamborough the next day, a juvenile north at Flamborough on 27th and a juvenile lingered in a field near Old Fall, Flamborough on 28th September.

After a blank October, a late juvenile flew south off Filey on 9th November.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon coastal passage migrant; rare inland

Breeds in Scotland, Iceland, the Faeroes and recently Scandinavia, migrating usually offshore to the seas off southern Europe.

A total of 127 flew south at Filey during the autumn, with 638 similarly off Flamborough during the same period, which compares well with totals of 602 and 598 there over the previous two years.

A single off Filey Brigg on 23rd January represented the first, followed by singles north at Spurn on 15th April and Long Nab on 10th May. June proved to be better than average, with 12 north at Long Nab, 24 at Flamborough and five at Spurn on 20th.

Records were scarce in July, with none from Spurn, and a best of nine at Flamborough on 29th. Somewhat predictably, August brought an improvement, with 57 at Flamborough and 25 at Spurn on 14th, 34 at Spurn on 26th, 37 again at Spurn on 29th and 23 logged off Filey the next day. Passage peaked during September, with the first appreciable movement relating to 56 at Flamborough on 16th, 39 at Spurn the next day and 22 there on 18th.

However, again the northerly winds on 24th September proved productive, with 80 south at South Gare, 84 south at Skinningrove, 47 south at Long Nab and a record 197 south at Spurn. Subsequent days produced counts of 23 off Filey on 25th and 41 at Spurn on 26th September. Totals remained low during October apart from 30 at Flamborough and 15 at Spurn on 16th.

Six at Flamborough on 7th November proved to be the month's best count and late singles went south at Long Nab on 22nd, Filey on 27th November and, finally, at Spurn on 2nd December.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* **A** 5,56,16,10,5
Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles.

As with the previous year, 2010 was disappointing with a mere five records, all from Spurn. In August an adult flew south at Spurn on 19th (IS *et al.*), an adult headed north on 26th (AR) and a juvenile flew south and then 'U-turned' the following day (NP: JWa). In September, an adult flew south at Spurn on 5th (NP) and a single flew north there on 25th (JMT *et al.*).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* **A**
Amber list: common coastal breeder and passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds along the coasts of northern Europe and the Arctic. Nationally has shown a dramatic 48% decrease 1986–2009, but despite this, Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head continue to support the largest Kittiwake colony in the UK.

In the north, the colonies held 2120 pairs between Saltburn and Skinningrove and 2160 pairs between Skinningrove and Cowbar. These numbers were very similar to last year, indicating that Cleveland has a stable population. A nesting seabird survey on 4th June between Rocky Point (south of Ravenscar) and Scalby Mills discovered 196 pairs, which compares to 249 pairs along the same stretch during Seabird 2000. A total of 1718 nests were counted on the Castle Headland, Scarborough on 10th June, an increase from 1596 nests in 2009. There were an additional 300 nests around Scarborough, including 174 on the Grand Hotel (an increase from 154 in 2009) and 50 on the Town Hall (an increase from 35 the previous year). The nests on the Grand Hotel contained 179 well grown chicks on 6th July, indicating a good breeding season.

A boat-based survey of the North Cliff at Filey on 21st May revealed 6420 occupied nests (6413 in 2009). Monitoring of 52 nests on a section of the same Filey cliff showed that each nest contained two/three young. Following gale force winds, however, only 20 young remained, with approximately 16 surviving to fledge. The study plots at Bempton/Flamborough contained 1967 individuals, up from 1585 in 2009. These plots account for approximately 5% of the colony and breeding productivity was 1.17 young fledged per pair, the highest productivity since 2000. The mean national productivity from 1986–2005 was 0.68 fledged young/pair, indicating that the Bempton/Flamborough colony is bucking the continued decline shown by many Scottish island and west coast colonies.

Substantial movements along the Scarborough coastline started on 2nd April, when 1630 flew south in one hour and 1800 headed south in one hour the following day. Aggregations totalling 7000 were present off Marine Drive in the early morning on 22nd July, 3000 of which flew north. Other significant movements in the Scarborough area concerned 3500 flying north in three hours on 14th August, 800 north in one hour on 26th August and 700 north in two hours on 7th November. There were two large movements at Filey during the spring, 7450 flew south on 3rd April and 2650 did likewise in one hour on 11th April. Filey produced more significant movements in autumn, the highest relating to 2370 north on 14th August, with 1879 south on 23rd August and 903 south on 9th November. Movements at Atwick were unimpressive until 600 flew north in the space of 30 minutes during north-easterlies on 16th October. At Spurn records were scarce during the first four months, with just single or low double-figure counts on 19 dates. Between May and late November birds were recorded almost daily, although they were noticeably absent during the first half of October and the last sighting occurred on 9th December. Highest counts included 171 on 7th May; 270 on 30th August; 400 on 18th September; 3260 on 16th; 325 on 24th October; 1057 on 7th and 1976 on 9th November.

The first inland record concerned a second-winter/adult at Thrybergh CP on 21st February. There were no further inland records until March, when the usual movement took place. One joined the gull roost at Lingham Lake and an adult flew north-west over Wombwell Ings on 6th, a single was at Old Moor on 12th, one graced Wombwell Ings and four were present at Sunk Island on 13th and an adult appeared at Calder Wetlands the same day, this latter bird remaining until 15th. On 22nd March a single frequented Old Moor and a first-winter

was at Pugney's CP and a different first-winter was at Pugney's CP on 29th. A colour-ringed first-winter/first-summer at Swillington Ings on 25th March was seen again on 4th and 29th April and, what might have been the same bird, on 2nd May. Enquiries revealed that it had been ringed as a pullus at Pointe du Roz, Brittany on 11th July 2009 and was last seen there on 19th August 2009. Interestingly, it also visited the West Midlands between the first and last sightings at Swillington. In April there were four records of adults: singles were at Anglers CP, North Duffield Carrs and one over Swillington Ings on 12th and a single graced Tophill Low on 18th. A single at Flasks Lake on 24th May was the only record during the month and the sole June record involved an adult at Rawcliffe Lake on 3rd. The only autumn records related to a first-summer at East Cottingwith on 11th July, a single at Potteric Carr on 20th July, a juvenile at Farnham GP on 24th August, which was found dead the following day, a juvenile at Redcar Tarn on 28th August and, finally, a single at Sunk Island on 25th September.

BONPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* **A** 1,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; six previous records
Mainly breeds in Canada and winters around the coasts of North America.

An adult stayed at South Gare for just a couple of hours during the late afternoon of 29th January, after which it flew off in a northerly direction (DJB *et al.*). This is the first record since an adult at Saltburn on 13th/14th November 2006.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **A**
Amber list: common breeder and abundant in winter. BBS 83/216

A widespread and successful species, breeding from east Canada east through Britain and Europe to north-east China. As many as 1.9 million are thought to winter in Britain, with many immigrants from northern Europe and perhaps western Russia reaching Yorkshire. Found in significantly more BBS squares this year.

The large roost at Tophill Low was evident in both winter periods. During the early months there was a maximum of 10,400 on 17th February, but this had fallen to 1350 by 14th March. Later in the year, the only count involved 17,500 on 1st October. Numbers roosting at Eccup Res were slightly lower than last year, but within the normal year-on-year fluctuations. There were 16,000 present in January and 15,000 in March, while in autumn, numbers began to increase from 7000 in September, 12,000 in October, 14,000 in November and 17,000 in December, although around Christmas numbers at Eccup fell to under 7000 due to the freezing conditions. Blackmoorfoot Res had large numbers roosting both early and late in the year; 7000 were present in January/February and 6400 in March, the September maximum of 800 on 26th had increased to 4500 by 15th November. The roost at Winterset Res held 10,000 on 28th February, but this had reduced to 2000 by 17th March. Autumn numbers built up from 1000 on 25th August, but because of freezing conditions in December, peak numbers were down to 4000 by the year-end. At nearby Pugney's CP, at least 4000 roosted in January/February, with 3000 in early March and 5000 were present during November/December. In the Harrogate area, Lingham Lake attracted 20,000 in February/March and pre-roost gatherings at Nosterfield NR numbered 2000 on 13th March, with 3000 the following week.



Black-headed Gull ●
Ray Scally

A pair attempted to breed at Scaling Dam, but the eggs failed to hatch. At Waupley Moor a small roadside colony, that wasn't in existence in 2008, held 20 pairs. Another new 'colony' involved a pair at Southfield Res which raised two young. Tophill Low hosted 29 pairs by 10th June, all but one of which was on South Marsh East (the other on South Marsh West) and 13 fledged young were present on 28th July. At North Cave Wetlands at least 300 pairs bred and 100 pairs did likewise at Potteric Carr. Colonies on Thorne Moors held a minimum of 170 adults, but Fairburn Ings could only boast a total of eight pairs. There were three distinct breeding colonies at Swillington Ings, with an estimated 870 pairs on the islands in the main lake, 200 pairs on the eastern reedbed and 170 pairs spread across the islands and on the rafts at Astley Lake, making a grand total of 1240 nests.

At least 40 pairs attempted to breed on the reserve lake at Pugney's CP, but almost total failure was probably due to Mink predation. The Winterset colony held 159 pairs (187 in 2009) all of which bred on the islands and rafts at Anglers CP – a total of only 43 young fledged. Old Moor had at least 721 breeding pairs, which raised a minimum of 1670 young. At Nosterfield NR, 125 nests were present on 16th May, but only 38 remained on 19th June. Other areas near Harrogate held unspecified breeding numbers, including Farnham GP, Lingham Lake, Dallowgill Moor and Marfield NR. Although the Barden Moor colony remains evidently active, there was no detailed breeding data.

There was little evidence of coastal passage in spring, but Spurn recorded 1346 south and 280 heading east between 5th January and 28th May, with the highest counts in March including 170 on 13th, 312 on 21st, 382 on 27th and 224 on 28th. Autumn passage was equally light along the Yorkshire coast, with Scarborough's best relating to 130 south in two hours on 28th November. The only large movements at Filey consisted of 150 heading north on 28th September, 855 south on 3rd October and 430 south on 9th November. At Spurn just 1107 flew south and 322 came in off between 7th July and 18th November. The only treble-figure counts were 123 on 20th July, 481 on 7th October and 319 at Spurn on 18th November.

Inland, large numbers moved through Thornton Moor during a prolonged series of 'vis mig' watches. Passage peaked during July and August, with several four-figure day counts, of which the highest were 2300 and 3100. Daily movement through nearby Caldene Fields peaked at 1760 in October. These movements also coincided with a build-up at Sunk Island, where numbers increased from 1200 on 23rd July to a maximum of 4000 on 7th August, before decreasing to 3500 on 5th September.

An all white individual with normal winter head markings dropped in at Swillington Ings on 12th January and a leucistic individual visited South Gare on 31st January. A single with all-white plumage, except for normal black primaries and a coral-red bill, appeared at Staveley NR on 20th November and a similarly marked individual visited Swillington Ings on 12th December.

An adult at Sands Lane GP on 11th February had been ringed as a pullus at Cotswold Water Park, Wiltshire on 13th June 2008. An adult at Holbeck on 20th March had been ringed 'out of the nest' at Kokkola, Vaasa, Finland on 28th June 2004, a straight line movement of 1699 km. Finally, an adult at Scalby Mills on 10th December had been ringed as a pullus at Hosehill Lake LNR, West Berkshire on 13th June 2009.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds across Eurasia with birds dispersing in late July, entering the North Sea via the Baltic, and generally wintering south of England.

The species was very scarce along the coast during the first six months, with singles present at Flamborough on 10th and 30th January, two flew south at Spurn on 13th January and an adult was in the same flock as the Bonaparte's Gull at South Gare on 29th January, with what was thought to be the same individual at Redcar on 9th February. A first-winter joined the gull roost at Filey on 4th March and, near Scarborough, a single visited Scalby Lodge Pond on 2nd April and an adult was present at Wykeham Lakes on 6th April and singles were at Flamborough on 22nd May and 30th June.

Autumn coastal passage was especially poor and the Holderness coastline away from Flamborough, Hornsea and Spurn was almost bereft. Flamborough had 34 bird/days in July, with a maximum of six, while the 51 on 9th August were intermingled with seven records of singles that month. In September, 102 were seen on 10th and 133 on 20th, with only a further 23 bird/days during the rest of the month. October produced a total of 1209 bird/days, with maxima of 175 on 16th, 824 on 27th and 115 on 31st. November hosted 21 on four dates, with a best of eight on 17th. The first to be noted at Hornsea Mere were 34 on 2nd July, but this had risen to 350 on 16th July. Over 500 were counted here on 14th August, with 100 present on 26th August. There were regular records at Spurn from 18th June to the end of August, but these were mainly in single or low double figures, the best being 31 on 9th and 55 on 11th July. In September between one and seven were seen on just seven dates, while there were only four records during October, with a best of ten on 16th. A count of 44 on 9th November

represented an appreciable increase, but the only other records during the month related to two on 21st and one on 22nd November. Elsewhere, the best movements related to 155 north at Grimston on 16th July, nine adults north at Scarborough on 25th July and 47 south at Filey on 20th November.

Inland records occurred between 20th January and 9th November, but were far more frequent in April/May and July to September. An unusual group of five at Anlaby Park on 20th January, a single that flew south over Listerdale Wood on 4th March and one at Wheldrake Ings on 25th March were the only records during the first quarter.

In April, a single remained at Huggin Carr from 3rd/4th and on 10th, two adults were present at Old Moor and singles also visited Tophill Low, Lingham Lake and Fairburn Ings (where there were occasional sightings of singles until 14th May, with three on 16th April). Single adults were present at Swillington Ings on 19th and 25th April, with an adult at Southfield Res on 23rd and 25th and, on 24th, a first-summer flew north over Winterset Res, four adults were at Welton Waters and two were again present at Old Moor (where one or two remained until 3rd May).

May records included a party of eight which flew west after heavy rain at North Duffield Carrs on 1st, a first-summer at Swillington Ings on 6th, with two first-summer there on 13th, a first-winter on 15th/16th and single adults (probably the same bird) on 20th and 21st. Elsewhere, a first-summer appeared at Wombwell and an adult at Orgreave Lake on 12th, Hatfield Moors hosted a single the next day, a first-summer was at North Cave Wetlands on 16th, with an adult there on 21st, and an adult appeared at Flasks Lake on 19th. At least six first-summer remained at Tophill Low during May and June, but the only other June records concerned two first-summer at Southfield Res on 3rd, a first-summer at Orgreave Lakes on 13th/14th and a second-summer at Southfield Res on 21st.

There were a number of records in July, starting with an adult at Winterset and a second-summer at Anglers CP on 9th and a summer-plumaged adult that departed north-west from Winterset Res on 24th, when a single also appeared at Old Moor. Two spent ten minutes at Thornton Res on 30th July and up to eight remained in residence at Tophill Low throughout. There were then no further inland sightings until three appeared at Sunk Island on 14th August and two juveniles flew off north-west from Thrybergh CP on the same date. A juvenile then visited Farnham GP on 24th August. In September, there were singles at Southfield Res on 7th and Sunk Island on 13th, with three at the latter site on 27th. An adult and two first-winters graced Anglers CP on 29th, with the first-winters remaining until the following day. A first-winter appeared at Thrybergh CP also on 29th September, with two first-winters at Pugney's CP the next day, subsequently staying until 7th October. The only other inland records involved two at Sunk Island and an immature at Lingham Lake on 9th October and an adult at Mixenden Res on 9th November.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in all seasons; has attempted to breed

Breeding mainly in south-east and southern Europe, there has been an expansion north-west in recent years and numbers recorded in the county continue to increase.

In the north, the regular Hemlington Lake adult remained until the end of March and had returned by 7th July. Two adults and a first-winter were present at South Gare on 30th January. The Scarborough area recorded up to seven from the start of the year until 13th March, 13th-15th July and from 16th October until the year-end. At Filey, at least eight were noted during the year and included several over the summer period. There were three records of adults in the first six months, singles on 20th January, 2nd February and 11th April. Thereafter, adults were present on 6th, 11th and 22nd July, a noticeably dark juvenile on 12th August, a first-year on 11th, 15th and 21st September, an adult on 12th and 31st October and a first-winter on 2nd December.

At Flamborough a first-winter visited a garden in the village on 11th January and a first-winter dropped in at Northcliff Marsh on 12th March. There were then no further records until 1st July, when two first-summer then remained until 4th. Thereafter, one or two were recorded on a further 21 dates until the last on 24th December. The only records from Hornsea Mere concerned a single in March and two in November. Just to the north of Spurn, the fields between Kilnsea and Easington attracted several between early August and late September, with a maximum of ten on 29th August. There were records from Spurn itself in every month apart from May. Singles were recorded on seven occasions during the first four months, with two at Spurn on 21st February. One to three were then seen on an almost daily basis between 25th June and 11th July, two were present on 22nd July and one or two were present on four dates in August. Sightings were more frequent in September and October, up to four were generally involved, but in September six were seen on 10th, eight on 11th and five the following day. Thereafter, two were present at Spurn on 1st November, followed by singles on 8th November and 14th and 19th December.

Inland records were well scattered and especially prevalent from sites with well-watched winter gull roosts. In the Hull Valley at least 18 individuals were seen, with Tophill Low attracting a minimum of eight. North Cave Wetlands recorded singles on 15 days between 19th January and 14th November, with two on 23rd May. A single present between 25th and 29th May displayed to Black-headed Gulls. There were only two records from Thorne Moors, an adult on 4th April and an adult which flew west on 28th September and singles at Southfield Res on nine dates. Up to two graced Potteric Carr, with regular records from 20th March until 30th April.

The roost at Winterset proved to be a favoured site, starting with an adult present on 28th February and 1st March. A different adult appeared sporadically from 4th–14th March, followed by a first-summer at Anglers CP on 12th May that departed to the east. The roost on Winterset Res then attracted three during November/December, with a first-winter between 4th and 27th November, an additional second-winter on 6th and an adult on 2nd/3rd December. At Pugney’s CP different first-winters were seen on 13th January and 7th February and a first-winter appeared at the nearby Calder Wetlands on 14th December. There were six records from three different localities in the Huddersfield area, starting with a first-winter at Sands Lane GP on 3rd and 7th January. First-winters graced Blackmoorfoot Res on 1st and 28th March and a second-winter on 23rd September. Finally, an adult appeared at Butterley Res on 6th November. There was a good series of records from the Halifax reservoirs, all concerning singles, and all during the second winter period. There were few records from Fairburn Ings and all related to singles, on one day in February, 16 days during April, one or two days in May, June and July, and two days in December. Eccup Res only recorded singles on 11 days during both winter periods. However, Bradford also had an unprecedented series of records, with 18 different individuals recorded from four localities. Most of these were from Redcar Tarn, which hosted a single between 25th January and 18th February and then one or two on a further nine dates and Thornton Moor Res, which held singles on four dates in August and two different individuals on single dates in September.

Near Harrogate, most records stemmed from the Nosterfield area, where singles were seen at a number of locations, although it was probable that only a small number of individuals were involved. An adult was present at Nosterfield NR on 11 dates between 12th March and 11th July, usually in association with the breeding Black-headed Gulls, to which it was seen to display on several occasions.

In the past, occasional pairs have bred or summered at potential breeding sites. An adult which appeared at St Aidan’s on 26th February moved between there and Astley Lake until mid-March, when it was joined by a second adult. On 25th March both adults were on the same island at St Aidan’s, but it was not clear if they were paired. A third adult was seen nearby next day, but didn’t hang around. Both adults were seen at St Aidan’s on and off well into June, but breeding could not be proved. A juvenile that turned up there on 5th August was thought unlikely to have hatched on the site. On a more positive note, a pair bred in the Black-headed Gull colony at Old Moor and three fledged young were present on 1st August.

Colour-rings usefully identified the origin of several. A first-winter at Sands Lane GP on 3rd and 10th January had been ringed as a pullus on the Elbe estuary at Pionierinsel, Hamburg, Germany on 23rd June 2009. A juvenile at Thornton Moor Res on 21st August had been ringed in Ireland, but no further details are available.

A second-year hybrid, presumed to be a Mediterranean x Black-headed Gull lingered at Swillington Ings between 17th and 19th July.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder, common to abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 11/216

Breeds in Scotland, and only occasionally breeds in Yorkshire, where common outside the breeding season when continental migrants from Scandinavia and the Baltic states arrive from September through to December to winter. European breeding populations have been declining.

During the first winter period, traditionally the two major gull roosts for the species, Tophill Low and Eccup Res, once again produced the highest counts. At Tophill Low 7000 roosted on 1st January and, although this had increased to 15,600 by 17th February, only 7000 remained on 14th March. The picture at Eccup Res was completely different and 5000 roosted in January, but this decreased to 2000 in February, only to increase again to 6000 in March.

Other roosts contained far lower, but expected numbers. A total of 4400 roosted on a Humber sandbank off Welton on 3rd January, Southfield Res hosted 1600 on 9th March and 2000 roosted at Winterset Res on 28th February, but only 130 remained by 19th March. Blackmoorfoot Res held 1000 during January/February, but by 1st March this had dropped to 900 and numbers reduced very quickly thereafter. A count of 5100 at Grimwith Res on 5th March was remarkably high for Upper Wharfedale, while the roost at Lingham Lake contained 1000 on 13th and 20th March.

In the coastal strip, passage during March was obvious and roosts included 2000 at Wykeham Lakes on 13th March, 1800 at Filey on 18th March and 2000 between Long Nab and Scalby on 21st March. Visible migration along the coast was somewhat limited. At Filey 227, mostly immatures, flew south on 3rd October and 438 did likewise on 9th November. Spurn logged 2500 south on 9th November, with 164 doing the same on 18th November.

The second winter period also brought large numbers to the roosts at Tophill Low and Eccup Res. The only record from Tophill Low, however, concerned 16,000 on 1st October, while Eccup Res attracted 3500 in November and 5000 in December. As in the first winter period, other roosts held far lower figures. At least 500 roosted at Winterset Res on 31st October, with an estimated 2000–3000 present on 27th November. Numbers at Blackmoorfoot Res peaked at 1300 in October, while 1000 roosted at Grimwith Res in late November. The roost at Wykeham Lakes increased from 600 on 30th August to a maximum of 3200 on 4th December. An aggregation of 1325 at Bran Sands, South Tees on 19th December was unusually large and thought to be due to the freezing conditions prevalent at the time, forcing many from inland sites.

Leucistic singles appeared at Tophill Low and Hornsea Mere in October. A colour-ringed second-winter at Sands Lane GP on 25th March had been ringed as a first-winter at Prestvannet, Tromsø, Norway on 27th September 2009.



Common Gull ●
Ray Scally

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* **A**

0,0,0,0,1

Rare visitor; 25 previous records

The main population is centred on the Great Lakes and Canadian Prairies, wintering in coastal areas of the USA and Mexico.

An adult at Sands Lane GP between 23rd February and 31st March represented the first ever twitchable inland record (DHP *et al.*). Undoubtedly the same individual then returned to Sands Lane GP on 10th October and appeared on an almost daily basis between 21st November and 26th December (BA: JRS: DTa *et al.*).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; fairly common passage migrant/increasing in winter. BBS 41/216

The form *graellsii* occasionally breeds in Yorkshire at inland sites, on coastal rooftops in Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington and factory roofs in Hull. This race also breeds in Western Europe, Greenland, Iceland and the Faeroes as well as northern Britain, and migrates through the county to winter to the south, usually returning in March. The race *intermedius* breeds in Denmark, southern Norway and Sweden and occurs in small numbers on passage.

Along the coast there were single breeding pairs in Scarborough and Filey, with the latter fledging two young. Breeding also took place at Hornsea Mere, where a pair raised two young. In Hull, low double figures were reported breeding at a number of established industrial unit sites. Displaying birds at Swillington Ings

in early spring eventually culminated in two, possibly three pairs, breeding in the Black-headed Gull colony. Three juveniles were seen in mid July and others from early August and this represented the first confirmed breeding for the area. On Dallowgill Moor about 30 adults were present and behaving as if breeding in late April.

Lower numbers than usual roosted at Wykeham Lakes, numbers never exceeding 20 until 21st August, when 80 were in attendance, with 120 three days later. This was short-lived, however, as only 90 remained by 30th August and never more than 18 roosted at Wykeham thereafter.

On Thorne Moors, 400 roosted on the flooded peatlands on 23rd June. At nearby Hatfield Moors, 300 regularly roosted between late May and mid November and numbers peaked at 3000 on 18th August and 1000 on 10th November. A group of 1500 gathered in fields to the north of Elvington on 31st August. Further west, Redmires Res continued to be a favoured location and up to 400 roosted during August and the first half of September and this increased to 650 by 22nd September and 780 a week later. Although numbers at Redmires began to decrease thereafter, 486 remained on 1st November. Staying in the Sheffield area, Orgreave Lake held a maximum of 1000 on 21st September. The usual autumn build-up took place at Winterset Res, with 200 on 30th August, followed by a large influx the next day, when 649 gathered in the roost; only 80 remained by 1st November. The only large aggregation in the Huddersfield/Halifax area involved 100 at Ringstone Edge Res on 6th November, while numbers at Eccup Res peaked at 203 on 7th September. The autumn roosts in the Nosterfield area were impressive, with 3000 at Lingham Lake on 15th and 22nd September and 2500 on nearby Flasks Lake on 29th September, while 3000 were present on both waters on 5th October.

Coastal passage was light, with Spurn easily logging the most. Numbers began to build on the Humber shore at Spurn from late June and included maxima of 100 on 20th June, 200 on 23rd and 150 on 30th June, 270 on 7th July and 200 the following day.

Inland passage was detected in April and between August and October. These movements were generally in single figures, the maxima being 106 north-west over Staveley NR on 25th April, with 50 the following day, 100 on 27th and 50 on 28th April. Elsewhere, 58 headed west-north-west over Elland on 27th June, 54 flew west over Dewsbury SF on 17th August and 148 tracked east over Southfield Res on 9th August. It is feasible that some of these were simply feeding movements, as most tended to occur into the prevailing wind.

There were four interesting recoveries of colour-ringed individuals. A third-summer at Skinningrove on 27th July had been ringed in Norway, but no further details are available. An adult at North Cave Wetlands on 22nd July had been ringed at Stoke Orchard landfill site, Gloucestershire on 26th March 2005 and interestingly then appeared at Boca do Rio, Porto do Son, Caruna in Spain six days after the North Cave Wetlands sighting. An adult at Scarborough on 3rd August had been ringed at Seamer Tip on 5th June 2006 illustrating interesting site fidelity. Finally, an adult at Upperthorpe on 21st and 24th December had been ringed as a pullus at Rauna, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway on 2nd July 1999.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*argenteus*)

Fairly common resident breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 34/216

The race *argenteus* breeds in Britain and Ireland, including the Yorkshire coast from where it disperses mostly locally. Distribution in BBS squares represents mostly dispersed non-breeders. A national decrease has led to red list status.

There was a slight increase in breeding numbers on the cliffs in the north, with Hunt Cliff attracting 75 pairs (58 in 2009) and 460 pairs were estimated between Skinningrove and Cowbar. On the other hand, a nesting seabird count along the coast between Rocky Point (south of Ravenscar) and Scalby Mills produced only 51 pairs, which represented a drop from 86 pairs in 2000. A complete colony count at Bempton/Flamborough revealed 495 apparently occupied nests, a fall of 38 from 2008. This continues a forty year decline from the 1246 apparently occupied nests in 1969. Despite this decline, breeding productivity was excellent and a sample of 84 nests averaged 1.1 fledged chicks per pair. The usual pair bred on the Dolphin mooring mast off the Point at Spurn, fledging a single chick.

Breeding also occurred inland and a pair bred in the Black-headed Gull colony at Swillington Ings, the first young being seen on 27th June. It was considered that the young survived to fledging as the ready supply of Black-headed Gull chicks offered an advantage. As with Lesser Black-backed Gull, this is the first confirmed breeding for the area.

In the north-east, the only significant tally involved an unusually high gathering of 1350 at Scaling Dam on 31st August. The largest number at Scalby Mills related to 880 on 10th December, but Seamer Tip attracted 1800 on 8th April and at least 5000 on 27th November. The nearby roost at Wykeham never attracted more than the 400 present on 30th August. Numbers at Filey appeared to be up on the previous year, with a maximum of

1800 on the beach on 14th January, 580 in the Bay's gull roost on 4th March and 400 there on 20th November and 300 on 5th December. Other noteworthy counts included 144 at the Dams on 15th April and 700 following a tractor at Newbiggin on 12th October. The only appreciable count from Hornsea Mere referred to 850 on 16th October. Present at Spurn throughout, with 800 there in January and February, but numbers then dropped to 400 in May and June and never exceeded 162 until late autumn. November's best was 1331, but only 450 remained in December.

Numbers from waters within the Humberhead Levels were reduced; 1300 roosted at Southfield Res on 11th February, Hatfield Moors hosted 400 on 27th October and 500 on 10th November and Potteric Carr's maximum related to 260 on 10th January. The roost at Winterset increased slightly, with 300 on Anglers CP on 2nd January the maximum during the first winter period, but generally fewer than 100 were involved. The build-up during the second winter period was slow and the freezing conditions in December produced a maximum of 163 on 5th. Fairburn Ings could only muster relatively low numbers throughout, but this increased to several hundred in November/December, with a best of 500 on 22nd November. The roost at Broomhead Res peaked at 168 on 28th November, but only double-figures occurred thereafter. In the Leeds area, at least 5000 roosted at Swillington Ings on a number of evenings at each end of the year, but as they were well distributed across the area, accurate counting was difficult. The maximum numbers roosting at Eccup Res were 62 on 1st January and 110 on 12th December and low numbers roosted in the Nosterfield area, with maxima of 34 at Lingham Lake on 26th February, 40 at Flasks Lake on 24th April and 24 at Lingham Lake on 21st September.

Passage along the coast was rather subdued and only Spurn recorded significant numbers. In the first half of the year, 3840 flew south between 17th January and 2nd May, including 800 on 17th January and 634 on 14th March. Later in the year, movements were very few and only amounted to a total of 955 passing south between 5th October and 17th December, the peak being 313 on 17th December.

Inland movements were witnessed in the Huddersfield/Halifax area between 1st January and 14th February and again between 24th October and 12th December. Most of these involved less than 30 heading in a west or south-westerly direction, but 320 flew east down the Colne Valley, Huddersfield between 1130hrs and 1300hrs on 14th February. However, an unprecedented 4320 did likewise between 1000hrs and 1300hrs on 12th December. This latter passage also coincided with 94 heading north-west over Pellon, Halifax. Other December movements included 80 west over High Royd Well Moor, Halifax on 25th, 250 similarly over Elland GP the next day and 250 flew south in 30 minutes over Ripon Parks on the same date.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon summer visitor and migrant

Breeds in southern Europe. Numbers reported from the county seem to have stabilized in recent years now that observers are familiar with its identification, but more are being reported from the north of the county.

In the north, there was a minimum of 13 individuals in the Tees area during the course of the year, but the previously reliable adult at the Tees Barrage was only seen on three dates in January, with it or another there on 27th April and it failed to appear in the second half of the year. Further south, the species is being recorded with increasing frequency. In the Scarborough area, adults roosted at Wykeham Lakes on 22nd/23rd, 28th July and 21st August, a juvenile visited Seamer Tip Pools on 22nd July, with a first-winter there on 12th November. Scalby Mills also hosted a juvenile on 2nd September. At Flamborough, a first-summer flew out to sea on 5th April and a second-summer flew north on 27th May. Later in the year a juvenile was present on 22nd July, with two juveniles from 29th-31st. In August a juvenile was offshore on 7th, an adult was at South Landing the following day and a juvenile flew north on 10th. Records from Spurn were uninspiring, with a yearly total of only 23 bird/days. The only records in the first half of the year concerned an adult which flew south on 18th March and a single did likewise on 2nd May. Up to three were then regularly recorded on the Humber from 15th June to 8th July, but the only other records involved singles on 7th, 21st and 24th August, the latter a juvenile.

The large aggregations recorded on the Humberhead Levels the previous year never materialized, although Hatfield Moors attracted eight on 3rd August and six were regularly present in late July and early August. Further inland, most of the well-watched roosts attracted one or two, especially between July and October. Localities to hold greater numbers included Potteric Carr with six on 11th July, North Cave Wetlands with four on the same date and again on 25th July and Orgreave Lakes with three adults on 18th July. A minimum of three (along with 1500 Lesser Black-backed Gulls) were in fields to the north of Elvington on 31st August, Winterset Res had up to eight roosting between late August and late September, and then up to four were present until 18th October. September maxima included nine at Naburn on 9th, four at Redmires Res on 13th, with five there on 25th and again on 29th. Record numbers were reported from around Bradford between 26th June and 30th October, especially at Thornton Moor Res and at least 30 different individuals were involved.

The only winter records involved a single at Nosterfield NR on 1st January, an adult at Upperthorpe on the same date and three adults with 80 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Winterset Res during the morning on 1st November.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* **A** 3,1,1,5,5
Rare visitor: 22 previous records

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller numbers than *micahellis*.

There were five acceptable records for the second year running, two along the coast and three from inland waters. On 14th April a first-year flew from the sea onto the Humber at Spurn, where it rested for a while before flying off upriver (MG). A juvenile/first-winter that loafed with other large gulls on the sea between South Landing and Danes Dyke South on 22nd August represented the first accepted record for Flamborough (CCT). An adult was photographed at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 18th September (RA) and an adult accompanied Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Anglers CP and later departed north on 29th September (GJS). The year's last, a first-winter, roosted at Anglers CP on 5th December (SD: PS).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland.

Once again there were very few coastal records, with none at Spurn. The only January sightings involved a first-winter at Flamborough on 9th and one at South Gare on 29th, followed by an adult south over Flamborough GC on 1st February. There were just two records in March, with an adult at Northcliff Marsh, Flamborough on 2nd and a first-winter heading north off Gristhorpe Bay, Filey on 7th. A first-summer was relatively late at Flamborough GC on 23rd May. There was no improvement along the coast during the second winter period, with a juvenile lingering around Scarborough Harbour from 29th December into the New Year the sole record.

The year started on a good note inland, with an immature at Pugney's CP and a roosting adult at Swillington Ings on 1st January. An adult flew south with Herring Gulls at Winterset Res the next day and the adult at Swillington was joined by a third-winter on 3rd January. The latter had first been seen at Swillington the previous year and then appeared on several further occasions until 14th February; in addition, a first-winter roosted there on 6th January. An adult roosted at Lingham Lake on 25th January, with the same again on 1st February. Other February records involved a third-winter at Hornsea Mere on 13th, a second-winter at Bank Island, Wheldrake Ings on 21st, a third-winter at Southfield Res on 22nd, an adult at Flasks Lake on 23rd and 27th and, finally, an immature heading south-east over Fulford Ings on 27th. There were three records in March, with a second-winter at Swillington Ings on 5th, a first-winter at Harewood Whin Tip on 14th and an adult at Allerton Park refuse tip on 19th.

Most records late on came from Swillington Ings, starting a first-winter from 13th-15th November which represented the site's second earliest post-breeding record. A second-winter appeared sporadically from 18th-25th November, followed by a first-winter on 4th December and a second- or third-winter at Swillington on 12th December. The only other inland records involved a second-winter which roosted at Winterset Res on 14th November, a first-winter at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd November and a second-winter at Morehall Res on 4th December, a first-winter at Eccup Res on 12th and a first-winter at Skelton Lake on 27th December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* **A**
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case.

Following last year's meagre showing along the coast, there was a welcome increase in the number of locations that hosted the species. At Flamborough a first-winter was seen at Danes Dyke South on 6th/7th January and a second-winter was by the Fog Station on 17th January. A first-year appeared near Holmpton on 10th January and a long-staying first-winter remained at Saltburn between 10th January and 5th February, when it was regularly seen feeding on the beach; what was considered to be the same individual visited Marske and South Gare on 28th and 31st January respectively. Two first-winters were on the beach at Ulrome on 26th January, with one of similar age on Hornsea seafront on 6th February. On 19th February a first-winter lingered off the Headland at Flamborough and perhaps the same flew north as it followed a trawler at Filey the same day. A first-winter then flew north at Grimston on 9th March and an unaged bird was present at Holmpton on 10th April, the same date as an immature at Filey. The only other Filey record involved a single moulting into first-summer plumage at Newbiggin on 23rd April. With the exception of a late first-summer which flew north past

Long Nab on 5th May, all other records from the Scarborough area were during the second winter period. After an adult flew south at Spurn on 3rd January and a first-winter did likewise on 29th, 50 bird/days were logged at Spurn between 12th February and 7th July. This was largely due to a long-staying second calendar-year individual, although three individuals were present on 28th March.

The coast also featured heavily during the second winter period, although there were fewer records than earlier in the year. At Spurn the same second-winter was present on 26th/27th September and again on 2nd October. In November there were singles at Spurn on 4th, 8th and 13th/14th and the last there flew south on 20th December. There was a good series of records in October, starting with a juvenile at South Landing, Flamborough on 2nd, an adult flew south past Flamborough on 25th, the same date that a second-winter flew north at Cowbar; next a first-winter flew south at Flamborough on 28th and a first-winter at Scarborough on 29th/30th October was last seen on 8th November. With the exception of a first-winter at South Gare on 13th November, all other records came from the Scarborough area. Scalby Mills hosted first-winters on 9th and 21st November, a first-winter was in South Bay from 9th-12th December and again on 17th/18th, and finally, a first-winter appeared there on 26th December.

Inland there were only a handful of records in January, beginning with an adult which departed to the south-east from North Cave Wetlands on 3rd and represented the first record for the reserve. A first-year roosted at Southfield Res on 11th, a single of similar age flew south-west over Thorne Moors on 15th, a first-winter roosted at Broomhead Res the following day and a first-winter was at Swillington Ings on 31st January. Although there were more records during February, these were mainly from the Swillington area. A second-winter appeared at Skelton Lake on 6th February, with probably the same roosting at Swillington Ings the following evening and then noted sporadically until 7th March. It was joined by a first-winter at Swillington on 5th March, and a second-winter also at Swillington Ings on 6th March, with perhaps the same on several dates through until 3rd April. Other February records involved a first-winter at Southfield Res on 9th, a first-winter which remained at Hornsea Mere from 9th-26th, a first-winter which departed in an easterly direction from Southfield Res on 19th and, on the same date, an unaged single that dropped in at Potteric Carr. The only March record related to an immature at Fairburn Ings on 26th.

An unseasonal first-summer appeared at Hornsea Mere on 13th July and may well have been the same individual previously in semi-residence near Spurn.

With the exception of a second-winter at Hornsea Mere on 9th October (which then appeared sporadically until 22nd December) the first returned to inland waters in mid November. Perhaps no more than two graced Swillington Ings in the latter period, with a first-year on 12 dates between 15th November and 6th December and a first-winter there from 4th-6th December, with presumably the latter then present on odd dates until 19th. The only other inland records concerned an unaged single at Fairburn Ings on 14th-16th November, a first-winter at Pugney's CP on 29th November and one at Morehill Res on 4th December.

A single thought to be a Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid was at Skelton Lake on 27th December and Swillington Ings on New Year's Eve.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident. BBS 6/216

The declining British population breeds on northern and western coasts. Present throughout due to summering immatures and wintering adults, probably from Scandinavia.

With the exception of 126 along the South Tees in January, never more than 79 were then present until 813 congregated in December. Further south, although present at all the main localities on a daily basis, large flocks were in short supply. The largest roosts at Wykeham Lakes involved 250 on 13th January, 350 on 23rd October and 500 on 4th December. The only other treble-figure counts in the Scarborough area were from Scalby Mills, which attracted 280 on 14th September, 400 on 12th November and 380 on 10th December. The highest counts from Filey related to 300 amongst the masses of gulls on the beach on 14th January, 243 between North Cliff and Blue Dolphin on 22nd August and 280 on 18th October, 80% of which were adults. The only record from Barmston involved 400 on the beach on 17th January. At Spurn, with the exception of 150 which flew south on 17th January and 920 which did likewise on 9th November, no more than 97 were noted.

Long gone are the days when large numbers can be expected at inland roosts and totals in excess of 150 are now exceptional. Although the roost at Tophill Low attracted numbers during both winters, the largest numbers related to 140 on 1st and 230 on 15th January and 550 on 1st October, but this dropped to 290 during December. Scaling Dam attracted 350 on 17th September, but the only significant count from Hornsea Mere referred to 180 on 16th October. Southfield Res pulled in 450 on 11th January, but this had fallen to 365 on 20th. Fairburn Ings, which generally attracts a good roost, had occasional counts into the several hundreds, with a

maximum of 500 on 11th January. Yorkshire’s prime site continues to be Swillington Ings, where up to 5000 roosted on some evenings during both winter periods. By sharp contrast, the status at Eccup Res has changed and it is now only a scarce visitor, with no more than six in the roost. This abysmal picture was also reflected at a number of other previously large roosts. Winterset Res could only muster 45 on 2nd January and 20 on 5th December, Blackmoorfoot Res attracted 62 on 26th January, but no more than two in November/December and Orgreave Lake held a best of 25 on 14th February.

Away from the roosts, good numbers were present throughout at Sunk Island, with highs of 600 on 24th July and 500 on 17th September. Further upstream, a group of 800 rested on a sandbank at Welton on 3rd January. Away from the estuary, 400 rested in fields on the edge of Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 12th April, while Thorne Moors attracted no more than 100. Nearby, Potteric Carr pulled in 208 on 10th January and Scampston Park held 150 on 9th November.

Inland movements were obvious during January and December. In January 72 flew west over Hay-a Park GP on 1st, a group of ten flew east at Wheatley Valley, Halifax on 7th, 30 flew south-east there the following day, and 50 headed west over Naburn on 30th. An unprecedented total of 450 flew east down the Colne Valley, Huddersfield between 1000hrs and 1300hrs on 12th December and 100 flew south over Ripon Parks on 26th December.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* A

Amber list: scarce and localised breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The nominate race breeding in Britain and Ireland winters off the coast of Africa.

The first record in the north-east related to 16 at South Gare on 28th April, a reflection of numbers breeding along the Durham coastline. However, apart from areas near the Spurn/Beacon Ponds colony, this remains a scarce visitor and Filey’s sole record referred to two adults and a juvenile flying south past the Brigg on 20th July. Despite intensive coverage, there were just three sightings at Flamborough, one that headed north and later back south on 10th July, one that flew south on 16th July and, finally, two tracked south on 4th August. Immediately to the south, a single appeared off Barmston on 10th August.

Spurn’s first appeared on 17th April and then recorded daily in double figures until early August, with a maximum of 41 on 9th May and the last noted on 16th August. Five pairs prospected along the peninsula, but there were no serious nesting attempts, presumably due to the presence of both foxes and people.

At nearby Beacon Ponds, adults started making nesting scrapes on 20th May and the electric fence was erected soon after. Unfortunately, several of the earlier nests were constructed outside the fenced area, and all were soon predated. The first egg was noted on 22nd May and the last laid on 1st July, with 12 chicks hatching during the latter month. Sadly predation by Kestrel, and especially foxes, accounted for many chicks and only a single fledged. This represented the worst season for the number of breeding pairs since the 1980s, with only 11 pairs nesting and a maximum of 52 adults present.

Inland, two visited Potteric Carr on 2nd July, three dropped in at Southfield Res on 5th, a single graced Pugney’s CP on 18th and another flew north through North Cave Wetlands on 27th July. Finally, a lone individual appeared briefly at Calder Wetlands on 15th September.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* A

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant in varying numbers

The commonest of the marsh terns; it nests across Europe (not Britain) and winters in Africa.

The first appeared at Southfield Res on 23rd April, followed by two at Sunk Island on 25th. After a long gap, the next appeared at Winterset on 21st May, with two present there the next day, when a single flew north-west over Buckton having cut the Flamborough Headland. A single graced Flasks Lake/Nosterfield NR on 23rd May, two days before three at Old Moor and four through Swillington Ings, while one headed east over Old Moor on 26th and Old Moor and Southfield Res then hosted singles on 27th May. The latter site attracted a single on 21st June, with another at Winterset on 24th.

Four singles appeared during July, at Hornsea Mere on 7th, Beacon Ponds on 21st, Hornsea Mere on 29th and one south at Spurn on 31st. At Spurn, there were single figure counts recorded on 16 days in August, with bests of seven on 23rd and nine on 24th August. Elsewhere, a single appeared at Skinningrove on 20th August and a juvenile lingered at Winterset on 24th/25th August.

September proved to be a very productive month, with some notable influxes. There were records on eight dates at Spurn, with a high of five on 21st and the last of the year there on 30th September. Two flew north at Flamborough and two visited Eccup Res on 4th September. An appreciable arrival started on 6th, with one at Sunk Island, two at Winterset and a party of 11 at Southfield Res later headed west, with another duo arriving there later in the day. On 7th September, there were singles at South Gare, Filey Brigg and Wykeham Lakes and 11

on Hornsea Mere in the east. Further inland, singles appeared at Eccup Res, Elland GP, Fairburn Ings, Old Moor/Broomhill Flash, Sands Lane GP and Southfield Res on 7th, with two at both Castle Howard Lake and Worsbrough Res and 18 at Winterset. Up to two featured daily at Flamborough from 8th–13th September, with one at Blackmoorfoot Res on 9th, two on Hornsea Mere and one at Pulfin & High Eske the next day, two over Thornton Moor Res on 13th September, a juvenile stayed at Swillington Ings from 14th–22nd September and Southfield Res hosted a single on 14th. Two remained at Pugney’s CP from 16th–20th September, with one until 24th, one lingered in the Treeton Dyke/Orgreave Lakes area from 16th–23rd, Eccup Res hosted singles on 18th and again on 21st and three tracked south at Flamborough on 20th.

Another significant influx took place on 22nd September, although concentrated on several widely dispersed waters; 11 dropped in at Tophill Low, 13 joined the long-stayer at Swillington Ings, a single initially at Southfield Res was joined by a further 14 briefly, and, more remarkably, a flock of 46 arrived from the east at Blackmoorfoot Res and departed west after staying 30 minutes, with another single there later on. Two appeared at Winterset and two remained at Tophill Low on 23rd September, with two juveniles off Filey Brigg and three at Flasks Lake the following day. A single flew south at Long Nab on 26th, Nosterfield NR hosted an adult on 28th, with a juvenile there on 29th September.

October started with two juveniles at Staveley NR and a single on the Bridlington Skua Cruise on 2nd, one then lingered at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd/3rd, followed by others at Hornsea Mere on 4th, a juvenile at Winterset on 9th and one on Hornsea Mere on 13th.

Finally, a remarkably late individual in winter plumage appeared at Staveley NR on 7th November.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* A

3,0,0,1,2

Rare migrant; 67 previous records (62 birds)

Breeds from eastern Europe through to central Asia and China. European birds winter in Africa south of the Sahara.

A confiding juvenile graced Hornsea Mere from 15th–18th August and gave photographers the opportunity to capture some quality images (D&SB *et al.*). The second ever record for Southfield Res then appeared in the company of two Black Terns late evening on 6th September, but had unfortunately departed by the next morning (MJP: LT).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* A

Amber list: fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/204

The currently increasing western European population of the nominate race winters off West Africa.

In the north-east, South Tees attracted the largest numbers, with up to 69 in July and 143 during August. The Scarborough coastline only recorded relatively small movements, including 70 off Long Nab on 19th July, 50 south at Scalby Mills on 20th July and 72 passing Marine Drive on 7th August. The last records from that stretch of coastline related to two off Scalby Mills on 8th October and a first-winter off Scalby Mills on 6th November.



Sandwich Tern •
Ray Scally

Filey’s first two appeared on 22nd April, with 26 on 1st May and 25 in the Bay on 10th June. Numbers built during July, including 218 north on 13th and 222 north on 15th, while the Brigg roost hosted 66 on 22nd and 71 on 30th July. August lacked any appreciable counts, while 45 assembled on the Brigg on 2nd September, there were two singles off Filey in October and a first–winter fed in the Bay on 5th November. Further south, Flamborough’s monthly maxima were 84 on 24th April, 50 on 1st May, 105 on 26th June, 500 on 30th July, 516 on 14th August, 100 on 15th September and 11 on 7th October.

The first two at Spurn flew north on 14th April and up to 400 roosted on the Humber there in July. The evening tern roost movements from late July to early September contained 414 on 28th July, 350 on 10th August, 458 on 11th and 557 on 13th August. After 100 on 16th September, numbers dropped drastically at Spurn, with the last on 8th October.

The first inland record was early, when a single flew north over Staveley NR on 25th March. Subsequently, two flew east at Swillington Ings on 28th April, Sunk Island hosted a single on 23rd May and two visited Southfield Res on 26th May. An adult appeared at Winterset on 24th June, while North Cave’s second ever graced the reserve on 4th July. Up to seven remained at Sunk Island from 4th–13th July. A single flew west over the flashes at Fairburn Ings on 22nd July, while nearby, an adult winter rested on tern posts at Swillington Ings on 7th August. After a single at Sunk Island on 12th September, two circled Thrybergh CP and then headed off east on 17th September.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant. BBS 3/216
British birds of this Holarctic species winter along the West African coast. The small breeding population in the county has increased, taking the opportunities offered of newly formed islands and tern rafts on reserves.

Site & Date	First date	Number of pairs	Young fledged	Last date
Eccup Res	16th May	One	Two	31st July
Farnham GP	25th April	Eight	13	18th August
North Cave	28th April	Two	Three	3rd September
Old Moor/Bolton Ings	18th April	Five	12	28th August
Pugney’s CP	12th April	Five	None	3rd October
Rodley NR	30th April	One	None	–
Routh Heron Lakes	–	One	None	–
Southfield Res	22nd April	Two	Two	6th September
Staveley NR	25th April	Two	None	7th August
Swillington Ings	18th April	10–12	Unknown	15th September
(none bred at Fairburn Ings)				
Thrybergh CP	22nd April	Five	None	
Tophill Low	–	Seven	Nine	–
Winterset	19th April	Six	None	29th September
Worsbrough Res	19th April	One	None	19th July

The first record related to a single that flew west into a snow–storm at Blackmoorfoot Res on 31st March and represented the earliest Huddersfield record by 13 days.

In addition to the tabulated details, breeding was confirmed at Millfield Lagoons, near Wakefield. Along the coast, South Tees attracted up to 465 in July, but a mere maximum of 85 in August. Further south, a single remained in North Bay, Scarborough from 3rd–8th April. The only significant movement along the Scarborough coastline occurred on 7th August, when 275 flew north in two hours off Marine Drive.

The first at Filey appeared on 6th May and numbers only started to pick up there in late July, with 72 on 25th and 47 the following day. After low totals during most of August, 470 flew north on 21st. The Brigg roost attracted a best of 81 on 1st September, a far cry from 2300 present in 2006, a year when exceptional numbers of fish were close inshore. Filey’s final record related to a duo on 26th September. At Flamborough, seven on 24th April were the first, with subsequent monthly maxima of 30 on 26th May, 212 on 26th July, 881 on 31st August and 1240 on 9th September, while six remained on 2nd October.

The first flew south at Spurn on 6th April and there were few notable records, apart from 19 on 4th June, until the evening tern roost movements started from 22nd June. On 21st July, 817 flew south and this increased to 3312 on 27th July, 4618 on 30th and 6100 on 31st July. There were some very good counts again during August, including 14,450 on 9th, 16,000 on 11th, 13,000 on 20th, 13,190 on 23rd and 16,500 on 24th. The best September movements were 4050 on 4th and 3000 on 14th, with only small numbers thereafter, until the last two at Spurn on 6th October.

Inland, a late single stayed at Rother Valley CP from 6th–8th October.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn
A widespread species that breeds in the Americas, north–west Europe, southern Africa, through the Indian Ocean to Australasia.

In the north–east, South Gare hosted a single on 25th July, with four adults accompanied by a juvenile there on 3rd August, while a single appeared at the adjacent Bran Sands on 8th.

An adult headed north at Flamborough on 21st July and an adult and juvenile did the same on 31st July. An adult flew north past the Headland on 10th August, followed by an adult and juvenile on 12th and two adults on 25th. A juvenile that flew south at Flamborough on 10th September preceded four, an adult and three juveniles, south there the next day.

Along the Holderness coast, two adults flew north at Grimston on 24th July. Spurn’s first of the year appeared at Chalk Bank on 27th June. The evening tern roost movement hosted an adult on 18th July, with single adults on three more dates to the month–end. Up to three featured on 11 dates in August, with four on 6th the best. The year’s last flew south on 7th September, adding to a total of 27 bird/days logged at Spurn.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and non–breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/216
Breeds in northern Europe and the Arctic and winters at sea, making a journey between the two polar regions. Migrates across the UK in spring, many leaving via the Humber.

The first record at Filey related to an adult south on 4th July, and the maximum there a mere eight, six adults and two juveniles, on the Brigg on 23rd August. A single juvenile south at Filey on 19th October represented its last. Likewise, there were no significant movements off Flamborough, with peaks of 26 on 1st May, 176 on 25th July, 77 the next day, 55 on 29th July and 33 on 8th August.

Spurn’s first record was a flock of 25 feeding on the Humber on 13th April. A total of 31 flew out east on 25th April and 367 bird/days during spring included highs of 59 on 7th and 86 on 12th May. The post–breeding evening tern movements contained only low numbers, with bests of 31 on 9th August, 36 on 23rd and 45 on 25th August. Apart from 25 on 24th September, singles were recorded on only eight dates during the month, including the last at Spurn on 25th September.

Further north, Long Nab recorded late singles south on 16th October and a juvenile north on 8th November. The first inland movement took place on 19th April, including three at Old Moor and six through Thrybergh CP, with another at Otley Wetland the next day. A large movement on 6th May involved seven through Swillington Ings, 12 at Orgreave Lake, 12 at Pugney’s CP, two flocks of 17 and 13 through Old Moor, 28 at Lingham Lake and 32 at Winterset, the latter being one of the largest groups ever seen near Barnsley. The following day a party of 12 dropped in at Fairburn Ings.

No appreciable numbers visited inland waters during the autumn, with a best of five at Winterset on 5th August.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* **A**
Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder and passage migrant, less so in winter
A common seabird of the northern temperate oceans. Yorkshire continues to play host to the largest Guillemot colony in England, stretching from Flamborough Head northwards to Scarborough. Over 59,000 individuals were counted in the Flamborough Head/Bempton Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA) in 2008; the success of the Yorkshire colonies is in stark contrast to the fortunes in the Northern Isles and the north–west coast of Scotland, where populations are undergoing dramatic declines.

During the early months hundreds fed off Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head. Unusually, throughout this period, tens of thousands were regularly reported on their breeding ledges at Bempton Cliffs. It is interesting to speculate whether this was a response to the abnormally low temperatures and increased food availability close to the colony. Not surprisingly, given the abundance of wintering flocks, counts at Flamborough Head were

unusually high, with a best of 23,225 on 19th January and 3000 on 27th February. At Filey, winter maxima included 1970 north on 10th January and 300 per hour north on 13th February. Away from the breeding colonies numbers were typically low, with 34 at Spurn on 2nd February and 98 north past Scarborough on 12th January. As per usual, the frequency of visits to the colony increased in March and, by the end of the month, there was an ever presence in the colony.

The Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head study plot counts (based upon 2% of the population) were very similar to the previous year, with a mean of 1131 adults compared to 1125 in 2009. The first egg appeared on 15th April, suggesting an early start to the breeding season. Productivity was again high, with each pair producing on average 0.75 fledged young per pair, compared to 0.78 fledged young per pair the previous year. Provisioning studies at Bempton Cliffs suggest that sprats were the most caught prey item (35%), with 30% sand eel and 36% unidentified.

A boat-based whole colony count of the Filey Cliffs colony on 21st May produced 3100 adults (cf. 2695 in 2009). A similar survey of the Yorkshire coast from Scarborough to Saltburn failed to locate any breeding birds on these extensive cliffs.

The number killed in salmon and sea trout fixed nets in Filey Bay during June was reduced following adoption of a voluntary code of conduct by the netsmen. Discussions continue between the RSPB, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the fishermen to try and ensure the fishery is sustainable and minimises the by-catch and subsequent threat to the internationally important breeding population.

Away from the colonies, there were few reports, suggesting inshore feeding and movements are not significant, with most feeding offshore. Exceptions included 400 heading south at Scarborough on 25th April, 300 off Long Nab on 2nd May, 97 off Spurn on 30th May and 1700 flying past Long Nab on 20th June.

Most had left the cliffs by late June, although occasional reports of males and juveniles from inshore waters continued through July and August. The highest such count related to a 400-strong mixed group of auks off Filey North Cliff on 1st August.

Significant autumn movements were few, with maxima of 280 south off Filey Brigg on 25th September, 265 south on 14th October, 262 on 9th November and 637 on the 20th November.

Remarkably, thousands were back on the ledges at Bempton Cliffs on 6th November and were still present a week later. Whilst a count of 10,000 from Flamborough Head on 13th December almost certainly involved another return visit to the colony, this time in very cold weather. Elsewhere, reports along the coast during this late winter period were, typically, few and far between.

Unusually an adult was discovered in calm weather conditions on the River Ouse at Methley on 10th September (DA: GR). It appeared to be exhausted and disappeared shortly after being located. Inland records are very rare, with only a dozen such Yorkshire records.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder/passage migrant, less common in winter

Breeds in the North Atlantic: the subspecies *islandica* found in Britain winters further south.

In contrast to the aforementioned species, return trips to the breeding colonies in January and February are a rare spectacle and, typically, there were very few sightings in this period. Most reports during the early months were restricted to records on seawatches at Flamborough, including 100 on 7th February and dozens feeding off Filey Brigg on 18th February. In addition, there were eight at Spurn on 2nd February, where this species was recorded on just five dates to the end of March.

Many started to return to the breeding grounds in early March, with 450 flying past Flamborough Head on 4th March. Whilst at Filey, there were 200 on the sea off the North Cliffs on 10th, increasing to 400 by 16th March. The first breeding adults were on the sea off Cowbar by the middle of March, with nine on 17th increasing to 64 by 9th April.

Away from the colonies there were no April records from Spurn, but from May to August there were almost daily sightings, including a new spring record of 835 on 29th May. Whilst at Long Nab, Scarborough, 130 flew south on 17th May.

Boat-based whole colony counts were undertaken from Filey Brigg to Cayton Bay on 21st May, which revealed an increase from 613 individuals in 2009 to 814 individuals (KC). A survey from Saltburn to Scarborough carried out on 27th May produced a count of 52 adults, including 50 between Boulby and Staithes and two on the cliffs south of Whitby, near the lighthouse at Saltwick (CC: KC). This compared favourably with the long-term counts at Boulby, which produced a minimum of 26 pairs compared to 28 pairs the previous year (MAB).

The Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA seabird monitoring programme aims to monitor 2% of the overall population, based on the total figure of 14,927 individuals counted in 2008. The plot count of 342

adults was very similar to that of 332 adults present the previous year. Breeding productivity was again good, although typically lower than for Guillemot, with each pair producing on average 0.64 fledged young per pair, compared with 0.60 fledged young per pair the previous year (RSPB). The first chicks fledged around 5th June, with main fledging in mid-late June, and 95% had left the breeding ledges by the end of the month.

The number killed in salmon and sea trout fixed nets in Filey Bay in June was reduced, following adoption of a voluntary code of conduct by the netsmen.

The successful breeding males and flightless juveniles typically fledge in the evenings and swim straight out to sea, presumably to minimize the risk of predation by gulls. The males then undergo their wing moult, becoming flightless during much of August, when sightings are often few and far between. Movements at the start of this period included 200 off Long Nab in three hours on 4th July and 130 off Skinningrove on 27th July, presumably involving females and failed or non-breeders. Typically, small numbers remain inshore and sightings of adults and chicks were reported from Atwick and Filey Bay in August.

From September onwards, small numbers are reported on sea-watches, but unlike the Guillemot, the majority appeared to have left the Yorkshire coast. At Spurn, one or two were seen on six dates in September and up to four on four dates in October. Three were reported from Filey on 25th September and 31st October and singles logged at Scarborough on 22nd November and 4th December.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grille* **A**

0,6,1,3,1

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

This circumpolar species breeds in northern Scotland where it is mostly sedentary, with only limited dispersal from its breeding colonies.

The year's only report consisted of a moulting adult flying south at Filey Brigg on 20th August (JS).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. The numbers recorded each year will clearly involve some double counting.

The only report in the early part of the year related to a remarkable record of a partially decomposed, headless body found at Dam Flask Res, Sheffield on 8th May. The finder, who took photographic evidence, believed it had been dead for at least a week.

The autumn's first headed north past Atwick on 24th September, followed by two north off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 26th September. The first influx occurred on the more typical date of 16th October, when 26 flew north at Spurn, two flew south and nine tracked north past Flamborough Head, five flew north past Barmston and two were reported from the Humber at St Andrew's Quay. One headed north past Holmpton on 17th October, followed by a single heading past Flamborough on 22nd October. A second smaller influx occurred two days later, when 15 flew north at Flamborough and another graced Filey. Small numbers were reported from Flamborough and Spurn until 7th November, when 49 flew north at Flamborough and 12 headed north at Spurn. A further movement took place on 9th November, with 50 moving north out of Scarborough's North Bay, ten at Filey and one at South Gare. By the end of the autumn, Flamborough had recorded a total of 102 bird/days, with the equivalent of 76 bird/days at Spurn. There were six reports in December, including six at Flamborough on 1st and one swimming along the tide-line at Grimston on 3rd. The last record referred to a single off Flamborough on 23rd December.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder and common passage migrant

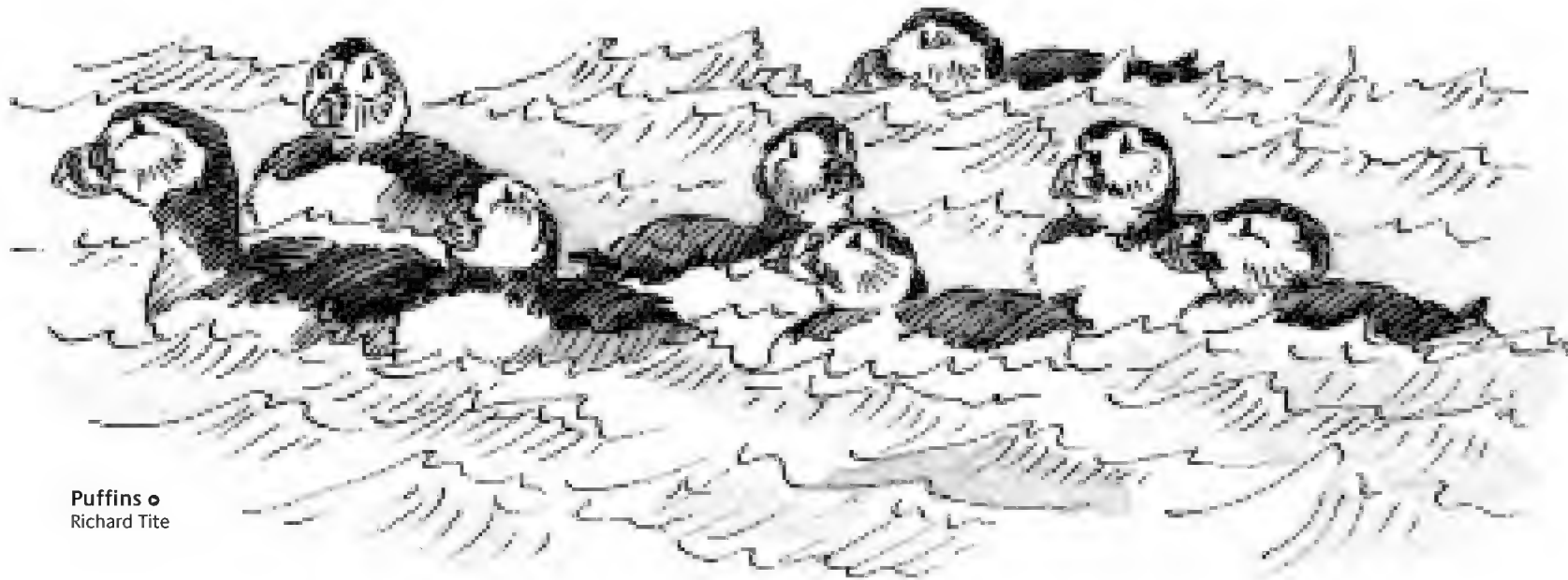
Breeds on the coasts of northern France, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Arctic. Winters well out to sea.

This species is largely absent from the Yorkshire coast during the early months. The first returning individuals at Flamborough were two north on 7th February and 49 north on 19th February, whilst at nearby Filey, singles were noted on 13th and 23rd February. By 4th March the first two returned to Filey's North Cliffs, where numbers increased to 30 by 16th March.

No whole colony counts or monitoring were carried out at the Flamborough and Bempton Cliffs SPA. The boat-based Filey-Cayton Bay survey only located 15 individuals on 21st May. However, the population is likely to be higher, as this method is not appropriate for the species, due to the difficulty of locating nest sites. A similar boat-based count of the Scarborough-Saltburn seabird colonies failed to locate any breeding adults. It is thought that evening or early morning seawatch counts in April and May, before the return of the non-

breeders in June, may give the most accurate estimate of the colony size. This is due to adults returning to nest sites to changeover with incubating or brooding partners; one such count at Flamborough on 31st May produced 1660 heading north between 0515–0900hrs.

The period between mid–late June and early–August typically produces the highest counts, when numbers are supplemented by the arrival of prospecting non–breeders. Unfortunately, there were no systematic counts at Flamborough, with 95 at Long Nab on 22nd July and best counts at Filey of 340 on 13th June, 177 on 4th July and 177 on 26th July. Numbers recorded at other sites are usually low, with Spurn’s first on 1st May, with maxima of nine on both 29th May and 11th June. Elsewhere, there were four reports of eight at Atwick and a best of three on 31st August. The last report related to a single that flew south at Spurn on 24th September.



FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* **AC4**

A common breeding resident in towns and cities and along coastal cliffs

BBS 65/216: –18% (–17) 1995–2009, –21% (–11) 2009–10

Within the UK pure Rock Doves are now confined to the extreme north/north–west. A type that is identical to the ancestral Rock Dove still appears amongst Feral Pigeons in both urban centres and along the coast. Control measures may be having some impact on populations and it has dropped out of the top 15 most abundant Yorkshire birds.

Very few reports were received of this widespread species, although notable inland counts included 450 in the Holbeck and 270 in the Armley areas of Leeds in January, 300 on Leventhorpe plateau in late October and 225 at Halifax Bus Station.

Coastal areas reported the largest flocks, including 600 at Flamborough on 17th March, 300 at Filey in early August and 470 at Flamborough on 2nd October.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* **A**

Amber list: fairly common resident; some passage and immigration

BBS 71/216: +55% (+1) 1995–2009, +58% (+2) 2009–10

Local populations are sedentary, although Scandinavian birds may swell numbers in winter. Although the long–term trend in the county had been upwards from 1994–2004, this was followed by a decrease until 2008, since when there has been some recovery.

Larger counts in the first winter period included 120 at Old Moor on 3rd January and 45 over Rodley NR on 6th January, with 70 at Raynor Clough on 14th February, 54 at Thorne Moors on 20th and 35 at Treeton on 1st March.

The population was described as widespread in both rural and suburban sites in the Hull Valley, with widely scattered records from the Scarborough area. Further west, numbers were reported to be increasing around Huddersfield, stable near Halifax, while it was a good year around Bradford and the species is common in the Barnsley area. Further north, the population remains widespread near Harrogate, with peak counts from Staveley NR of 80 in January and 120 during July.

There was light autumn passage along the coast, including 20 at Flamborough on 18th October and 16 on 29th October. At Spurn, a total of 251 flew south (and six U–turned) between 15th June and 17th November and included 111 on 13th November. Inland, passage totaled 210 at Thornton Moor Res, including 111 on 1st November. Elsewhere, other notable counts in the second half of the year included a previously unreported roost near Denholme that held 130 in early July. Around Leeds, counts included 200 on Leventhorpe plateau, with 50 at East Keswick in October. Peak counts from Huddersfield involved 220 at Ingbirchworth Res on 6th November and 200 at Thurgory Lane on 10th, while further east, Kelk hosted 44 on 14th November. Up to 32 were at Thrybergh in the latter months, with the same number at Rodley NR in December.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

BBS 188/216: +83% (+45) 1995–2009, –6% (+3) 2009–10

Continuing inexorably to increase in range and population, this now common urban species is an agricultural pest in many rural areas. The spread of oilseed rape has been shown to promote overwinter survival, and this crop has increased in the east of the county.

Large flocks in January included 1000 at Tophill Low and 1250 at Dunsdale on 1st, 800 at Silverwood Tip on 3rd, 1200 at Scarborough WTW on 5th, 2100 at Thorne Moors on 16th and 500 at Flamborough on 30th. Elsewhere in January, there were 5000 at Selby, 4000 at Old Moor, 1200 at Ellerton and 1000 at Farnham GP, although numbers were lower than normal around Leeds, with a peak count of just 550 at Eccup Res. In February, counts included 1100 at Southfield Res on 1st, 500 in fields near Cold Hiendley on 3rd, 1000 at Hirst Courtney on 8th, 1200 at Southfield Res and 1000 at Eccup Res on 11th, 1000 at Risby Park the next day, with 3000 near Ardsley, 1000 near Low Cowlam and 10,000 near Selby that remained until the end of March. In the Harrogate area, up to 4000 were at Farnham GP, 1200 at Nosterfield NR and 1000 at Staveley Carrs in February and March. Elsewhere in March, peak counts included 1500 at Eccup Res on 3rd, 600 at Mowthorpe on 11th, 1000 at Risby Park, Hull on 12th, 800 at Tophill Low on 14th, 1000 at Clayton Fields and 700 at Ulley.

Only light spring passage was recorded at Spurn, with 503 heading south between 18th March and 4th June, including 128 on 15th and 137 on 23rd May. Records from Flamborough included 350 on 2nd March and 270 on 25th May.

Autumn passage through Spurn was again very light, with 1058 flying south between 26th September and 13th November, with peaks of 155 on 1st, 495 on 3rd, and 155 on 13th November. At Flamborough, high counts included 300 on 17th and 180 on 31st October, with 200 present on 8th December.

The main passage occurred in central Pennine areas, commencing on 16th October, when 600 flew south/south–west at Redmires in one hour. The next day, 7850 flew south–west over Wharnccliffe and 2140 south over Redmires. On 24th October, 1200 headed south over Redmires, 2900 over Wharnccliffe, 1300 over Ecclesall, with 5009 over Harden. The next day, 8810 went south over Redmires and 4243 at Harden. On 30th October, 3260 flew south–west over Moscar Cross and 6015 headed south over Redmires, with 750 over Filey. The next movement took place in early November, with 3770 over Wharnccliffe on 5th, followed by counts of 9000 south–west over Blacka Moor, 15,300 flew south/south–west over Redmires, 5575 flew south–west at Northowram, 11,204 overflew Harden and 18,437 tracked over Stainburn Moor. These were followed by a record–breaking 22,560 over Harden on 7th November, when 3500 flew south over Scammonden, 6512 over Stainburn Moor, 20,000 over Oxenhope and 13,200 over Caldene Fields. The latter two counts were part of a record movement in the Bradford area that was almost four times the previous cumulative record total, and included autumn totals of 34,260 for Thornton Moor and 35,800 for Caldene Fields. At Winterset 19,152 flew south or south–west on eight dates between 24th October and 15th November, including 4140 on 25th and 2880 on 30th October, 2400 on 1st November, before decreasing to 500 on 6th. It was notable that only 330 were logged over Winterset on 7th November, when there was heavy passage in the Bradford and Sheffield areas. Only light passage was recorded at Spurn during this period, with 400 on 5th and 600 on 6th November, indicating that the main passage took place much further west.

Notable counts in the second winter period included 1000 to the east of Skelton Lake in October, 3200 leaving the roost near Southfield Res on 6th November, 1000 at Worsborough during November and 2000 feeding near Filey Dams from the end of November until mid–December. Elsewhere in December, 2000 congregated at Thrybergh CP and 800 at Ulley CP and 1000 flew over Swillington Ings on 23rd. A recently fledged juvenile in a garden at Hunmanby Gap on 3rd December was a particularly late breeding record.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* **A**
Common resident. BBS 89/216: +1% (+25) 1995–2009, –8% (–4) 2009–10
Having arrived in Britain in 1952, this species continues to expand in the north–west of Britain, but its population in Yorkshire is now fairly stable or slightly decreasing since 1998. There was, however, an increase in BBS numbers recorded for the second consecutive year.

Although this species is under–recorded, reports suggest that it remains widespread and common across the county. There were few high counts in the first half of the year, with exceptions of 43 in Church Cliff Drive, Filey on 19th January and 70 around the High Green area of Sheffield later that month. At Spurn, a number attempted to fly south during both migration periods, but the only ones that actually departed from the Point were two on 21st March and four on 3rd June.

Numbers increased towards the end of the year, including 40 at Kingswood, Hull on 17th September, 63 at Nunwick, Ripon on 7th October and 86 at Bank House Farm, Leeds on 15th October. November records included 70 in Church Ravine, Filey on 12th, 78 at Bank House Farm on 18th, 45 at Flamborough on 21st and up to 47 at Clarence Drive, Filey.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce and declining breeding summer visitor. BBS 3/216
The West European populations migrate south–west to winter in the drought–stricken Sahel zone. The national population has fallen by 77% since 1995, contracting eastward and southward, and it is becoming increasingly scarce in Yorkshire.

It was another poor year, with the decline continuing. Very few migrants were recorded, with Spurn’s first heading north over the Warren on 7th May, before up to four were logged on ten dates between 15th and 28th May, eight of which flew south. Singles were seen on just four days at Spurn in June, the last on 30th. There were only four records from Flamborough, comprising of singles on 13th and 17th May, 12th and 25th June and one at Filey on 1st June.

In the Scarborough area, bred in Broxa and Wykeham Forests, where several pairs were present and singles recorded in the Dalby Forest at Sutherbruff Rigg on 23rd May, Jingelby on 25th May and Penny Howe on 2nd July. Elsewhere, 12 pairs probably bred in the Hull Valley and included sightings at Leconfield, Kiplingcotes, Tophill Low and Watton NR, Kelk, Paull Holme Strays, South Dalton, Meggison’s Turnpike area and Walkington. Two at North Cave on 5th June represented the only site record for the year. In the York area, a single appeared at East Cottingwith on 27th June, single pairs graced Skipwith Common on 28th June and Sherriff Hutton on 9th July and an adult accompanied a juvenile at Appleton Roebuck on 22nd July.

There were 15 ‘purring’ males at Thorne Moors between 1st May and 30th September and a single singing at Thorpe Marsh on 3rd May and it, or another, on 24th. Three pairs were reported from the southern part of the Doncaster area and there were records near Rotherham at Meadowgate Lake on 3rd, two at Thurcroft Marsh from 7th–13th May and a single there on 17th July.

There were singing males in the Barnsley area at Winscar on 12th and Midhope on 22nd June and, although a pair was in the Harden area until mid July, no confirmed breeding was reported. Further evidence of the population decline was evident from Winterset, where for the first time ever, there were no records. The only record from the Harrogate area related to a single over Nosterfield NR on 22nd May.

Few migrants were reported on the coast post–breeding, with August records including four at Long Nab on 1st, and singles at Burniston on 12th and Potter Brompton on 19th. In September, a lone individual remained in Wykeham on 13th and one lingered at Hummersea from 28th September to 4th October. There were two late autumn records at Spurn, with single juveniles at the Warren on 7th and the Crown & Anchor on 30th October.

ROSE–RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **C1E*** 14,12,8,18,29
Rare breeding species and vagrant/escape
Due to increases in the feral British breeding population and to keep in line with BOURC’s decision to give it a C1E* categorisation, this species was moved into the main list in 2004. With small populations in neighbouring counties, it has now been decided to add this species to Yorkshire’s Category C list.

There were numerous records from Sheffield throughout the year, including Endcliffe and Bingham Parks, Healey City Farm, the Botanical Gardens and even the City Centre. Most sightings referred to no more than two, but three were present at Bringcliffe Edge on 2nd, Ecclesall on 18th January and at Broom in May, with four present at Manor Oaks on 28th October. Further east, Rotherham is another favoured area, with four over Swinden Technology Centre on 12th January and another present there on 20th May. Four flew out of Canklow Woods on 1st February, a single appeared at Whiston on 28th January, with two on 6th April, and another duo appeared

on Stag Lane on 10th February. There were further reports from the Moorgate area, with two at Grange Road on 2nd March, increasing to three on 22nd May, and two flew over Osbert Road on the Grange Estate on 1st July. Elsewhere, singles were reported flying over the River Aire at Woodlesford on 15th January, Thornton Moor on 24th April, Fairburn Ings on 24th/25th April, Tophill Low NR on 14th August and Went Ings on 12th September. The first records in the Huddersfield area since 2004 related to two at Scammonden Res on 1st/2nd September and two over Shelley Whins. Near Halifax, a single frequented the Shibden Valley on 1st January, with six going to roost at Barkisland on 17th October.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor
BBS 35/216: –66% (–63) 1995–2009, +49% (+1) 2009–10
A widespread Palearctic species that winters south of the Sahara. There has been a worryingly long–term and steady national and local decline since the 1980s, but 2010 saw the welcome return to many areas.

There were a number of early records in April, starting with the first at Thorne Moors on 8th, followed by sightings at Topley, Sheffield on 9th, the Leven Canal on 12th and Sammy’s Point and Strensall on 17th. There was a notable increase on 18th, including sightings from Silverwood, Ewden Valley, Pugney’s CP, Cudworth Common, Haw Park, Ewden Beck, Old Moor and Winterset. The following day a single appeared at Pulfin & High Eske, with sightings from Thrybergh CP and Firsby on 20th and Horbury Wyke on 21st.

There were conflicting reports as to the breeding population. It was reported to be doing well on Fylingdales Moor, with records from a further 11 sites near Scarborough. However, there was a further decline in the Hull Valley, with only 21 records, including three around the Leven Canal, three in the Kelk/Harpham area and two at Hornsea Mere, Pulfin & High Eske and Tophill Low. There was only one record from North Cave and Blacktoft Sands only hosted a single male on several dates.

The recent decline eased slightly around Winterset, there was an increase around Huddersfield with records from 35 sites, compared with only six sites in 2007, and likewise, reports from 16 sites near Halifax. Immediately to the north, there were records from 22 locations in the Bradford area.

Coastal passage was below par, although Filey experienced a reasonable spring, but poor at Flamborough, with singles on 14th and 22nd May and two on 23rd May and 23rd June. Spurn only logged 103 bird/days, with the last on 28th August. Post–breeding passage improved at Flamborough, with four singles in July, five in August and the final record on 1st/2nd September.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, rare in north–west. BBS 14/216
The population of this globally widespread species has increased locally particularly in the east, where nest–box schemes have proved successful. BBS figures show a 759% increase in England from 1995–2009.



This species continues to do well in the east and, despite the severe weather at the start of 2010, its range continues to increase, particularly in the far west. However, whether this will be maintained after the very cold snap in late November/early December remains to be seen.

Further increases were reported in the north-east, with indications that the species was 'doing well' around the Nunthorpe/Guisborough area, Skelton and the coastal strip between South Gare and Marske. There were numerous breeding pairs in the Scarborough district, particularly on The Carrs, while five pairs bred at Flamborough and six pairs around Kelk.

The Yorkshire Wolds Barn Owl Group detected a slight decline, with 35 young ringed from 14 broods, compared with 41 young from 16 broods the previous year. There were widespread records from the Hull Valley, but numbers were badly affected by the cold weather at the end of the year, with a minimum of 50 perishing across East Yorkshire between late November and the early New Year. A decline was clearly evident at North Cave, where the only records of this once common species, comprised of singles on 6th November and 5th and 30th December.

An estimated 20-25 pairs bred within the Barnsley area, the majority in the south-east and it remains scarce west of the M1 motorway. However, there were signs of the range spreading westwards, with four records around Huddersfield, a single reported in August at a former breeding site near Halifax and between four and six pairs bred in the Leeds area.

It remains thinly distributed near Harrogate, but there were encouraging signs of a return to the Western Dales, with singles at Snaygill Ings from 16th November until 27th December and sightings near Gargrave, north of Skipton, south of Grassington and in north Ribblesdale during December.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* **C1**

Uncommon resident in south and west, scarce in east. BBS 12/216

Introduced into England as recently as 1842, but a downturn in recent years suggests a moderate long-term decline.

There appeared to be no significant change in status, although the severe weather in the second winter period affected numbers in some areas. Around Scarborough, the population remained stable and it continues to be widespread, particularly in the agricultural belt. There were records from 11 sites in the Hull Valley, with breeding suspected at a minimum of four and there was the first confirmed breeding record at Went Ings.

Further west, it remains widespread around Barnsley, with nine pairs breeding in the Worsbrough Valley, at least two pairs held territories in the Roughbitchworth/Cubley area and three pairs bred around Winterset, while at least one, and possibly four pairs, bred near Old Moor.

Immediately to the north, there were records from 50 sites in the Huddersfield area, with breeding proved at four and probable breeding occurred at 12 others, involving at least 15 pairs. The population appeared stable around Halifax, with records from 31 sites. The severe winter weather probably had a detrimental effect near Leeds, where there were the fewest sightings for many years. However, it remained a common species in both the Bradford and Harrogate areas.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* **A**

Fairly common and widespread resident. BBS 6/216

Very under-recorded and not picked up on many BBS surveys. This species remains widespread with breeding records from across the county; it often goes relatively unrecorded and therefore it is difficult to determine trends, although nationally there appears to have been a small decrease since 1995.

There appeared to be no appreciable change in status and it remains a widespread, but under-recorded, species. The forests on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors, inland of Scarborough, clearly hold significant populations. A nocturnal survey of Thorne and Hatfield Moors aimed at Nightjars located three breeding pairs on each site.

The cold weather clearly had an impact, but two dead chicks in Grimescar Valley, Huddersfield in early March was evidence that some birds nested early. However, that finding food under the deep snow was a problem was indicated by a single attacking rabbits near Malham Tarn during the first couple of months.

There were 68 records from 27 areas near Halifax and it proved to be an excellent year in Lower Wharfedale and the Washburn Valley, where a dedicated ringer located a record 18 nesting pairs which managed to fledge 27 young. The population also appeared stable in the Leeds area.



Long-eared Owls
Ray Scally

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and irruptive winter visitor

Very little data available, and very under-recorded, but population may be stable. Scandinavian migrants of this Holarctic circumpolar species are seen on the coast in autumn.

In the first winter period, the number at monitored roosts was much lower than normal, presumably affected by the cold weather. At Thorpe Marsh, up to eight were present until 18th January, but then appeared to leave because of snow cover. There were also just one or two at several sites in the Rotherham and Sheffield areas and only two records from the Barnsley area: a single calling at Bolton Ings on 9th January, with others present throughout the year at Edderthorpe Flash. Two known roosts in the Leeds area held up to seventeen during both winter periods, but there were only single records from near York and at Staveley NR.

Along the coast, spring passage was very poor, with a single in Old Fall Plantation, Flamborough on 18th April and just a handful of records from Spurn, starting with singles on 27th February and 5th May, with one at Sammy's Point on 28th February and another present there from 9th-16th April. Buckton recorded a single on 5th June.

Following national concerns about a declining breeding population, this species has been added to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel list. From the records received, a minimum 53 pairs bred, but if more comprehensive survey work was undertaken, it is likely this figure would be much higher. In the north-east, breeding was reported from Guisborough Forest and two pairs bred near Scarborough.

Four pairs bred on Thorne Moors and a further two pairs on Hatfield Moors, while four pairs bred near Doncaster. Around Sheffield, confirmed breeding records included calling young at Redmires, White Lee Moor, Hammonds Field and Rod Moor with probable breeding at Peat Pits, Broomhead Moor and Bradfield. In the Barnsley area, an adult appeared during the day at Old Moor on 13th May and pairs successfully bred at Wilthorpe Marsh, Edderthorpe Flash, Midhope Res and single juveniles were heard calling at Whitwell Moor on 22nd June and Carlton Marsh on 9th July. It was an excellent year in the Huddersfield area, with a minimum of nine occupied sites (fledging a minimum 13 young) and probable breeding at eight locations, including one pair thought to have nested on the ground. Five pairs bred in the Halifax area, fledging a minimum 13 young, an adult was heard calling at a sixth site on 19th May, but none were found during visits to five other traditional breeding sites. In the

Bradford area, there were at least 11 confirmed pairs, with ten pairs fledging a minimum 23 young and an additional pair carrying food in June. The first breeding record for the Leeds area was confirmed when two juveniles were calling near Fishpond Lock in early June. Singles were also seen in suitable breeding habitat near Catterick and Wath Camps in late June and at least one pair bred near Hawes.

It was a relatively poor autumn along the coast, starting with a single at Buckton on 6th and 15th August, singles at Flamborough on 9th September, 4th, 9th/10th and 31st October. At Spurn there were singles on 8th September, 8th/9th October and 22nd November, at Sammy’s Point on 13th October and Easington Gas Terminal on 7th November.

In the latter months, a lone individual had returned to a roost site near Rotherham by 26th September, with another at a site in SK58 on 31st October. Up to five roosted at Thorpe Marsh between 11th November and 20th December. Elsewhere, Staveley NR hosted a single on 17th September, with two present from 8th October to the year-end and three on 9th December, while up to four appeared daily at Fairburn Ings during December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flames* **A**

Amber list: rare moorland breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 4/216

Wintering birds on the coast and estuaries include continental immigrants.

It was a relatively quiet year and especially scarce along the Humber and the Holderness coastline during the first three months. Along the Humber, there were sporadic records of singles at Whitton Sands and Blacktoft Sands through until April, with regular sightings of up to two at Sunk Island from 27th February until 2nd April. Spurn’s only records early on related to one south on 11th February, at nearby Long Bank on 27th February, whilst another appeared regularly from 13th–21st March and again on 19th April. On the Holderness coast, there were two at Withernwick on 3rd February and singles at Barmston on 5th March and 3rd April. Additional records from the east included one at Flamborough on 13th January, two at Long Nab on 17th January and singles at Filey on 2nd March, Flamborough on 2nd/3rd April, South Gare on 4th and one present at Flamborough from 30th April to 11th May.

Further inland, there were singles at Beal Carrs on 2nd and 23rd January and 29th March, one at Silverwood Pit Top on three dates in February and another at Stone, Rotherham on 5th April. In the Barnsley area, the only winter records related to three at Harden throughout January, with additional sightings at Fenny Common on 12th, Snailsden from 8th–18th April, Langsett Moor on 13th May and two at Windleden on 17th June. Heading further north along the Pennines, the number of sightings increased around Huddersfield, with records from 20 sites, but neighbouring Halifax experienced a 50% decrease in records compared to the previous year, with a handful of records outside the breeding season. Similarly, there was a decline in the Bradford area, with only 17 records from nine locations. Swillington Ings was the only site near Leeds to host the species, with singles on 2nd, 23rd and 30th January, up to four on eleven days in February, with the last present on 12th March. A single at Swillington on 6th April was presumed to be a late migrant, as was one at Fairburn Ings on 5th/6th May. The only record in the Harrogate area related to a single at Staveley NR on 1st January.

Despite large areas of potentially suitable moorland nesting habitat, this species remains a rare breeder, with only 14 probable and seven confirmed nesting attempts, including singles at Langsett/Midhope on 13th May, Burbage Moor on 22nd May and Cattersty Gill on 11th June. The only breeding record in the Barnsley area concerned a pair feeding young near Harden. Breeding confirmed at four sites in the Huddersfield area, including broods of seven and six young on 27th May, indicating a good local food supply; probable breeding occurred at two further sites. Despite the presence of ten in suitable habitat near Halifax on 1st April, there were only two confirmed pairs and only two possible breeding pairs around Bradford. Within the Harrogate area, just a lone individual appeared in Colsterdale during mid July. On the North Yorkshire Moors, raptor study group members checked c.60% of potential nesting habitat during survey work, but failed to locate a single one.

On the coast, a single came in off the sea at Spurn on 16th July, followed by sightings in the Triangle on three further July dates, one at Chalk Bank on 22nd August, with two present on 25th and 28th. In total, 39 bird/days were logged between 21st September and 20th December at Spurn, including three on three dates in late September, three on 10th October and four on 5th December. Nearby, one was seen on Beacon Lane on 30th August, with one or two regularly along Long Bank from September to early November. At Flamborough, just one record in August was followed by three singles during September, with two present on 4th October, followed by four on three dates and singles on six others during the same month. At Filey, singles appeared on 18th August, two dates in September and four in October. Two came in off the sea on 3rd November, whilst up to three were over the Tip, Carr Naze and Blue Dolphin on 7th, with another at Carr Naze the following day, and a single heading south over the sea on 9th. Elsewhere on the coast, there were sightings from Buckton on 8th September, Paull Holme Strays on 18th, South Gare and Scalby Lodge on 28th and during October,

singles at Starr Carr on 2nd, Hundale and Scalby Lodge on 16th, followed by others at Castle Headland, Scarborough and Barmston on 24th.

Inland, Swillington Ings again attracted singles during the second half of the year, with one on 22nd, 26th and 30th August, on 20th September, regularly from 6th until 21st November and, finally, on 5th December. Additional autumn records included a single at Nosterfield on 21st August, whilst in September singles graced Buckton on 8th, Silverwood Pit Top and Haw Park, Wombwell Ings, Broomhill Flash and Winterset on 11th. There was a slight increase during October, with lone individuals at Leven Carrs on 6th, Strensall Common and Grimston on 8th, Fairburn Ings on 9th/10th (and again on 28th), Folkton Carr on 10th, North Cave on 13th, Hummersea, Liverton Moor and Firsby Res on 15th and, lastly, Barmston on 21st and Scaling Dam on 23rd. There were almost no December records, so singles at Grimston on 3rd and Staveley NR on 5th were notable.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

This Palearctic species winters in East and southern Africa, with a British population of 4600 pairs.

The first of the year appeared at Thorne Moors on 17th May, with three churring males in Guisborough Forest the next day. There then followed a more general arrival, with new individuals appearing through into early June.

In the north-east, Guisborough Forest held six churring males, three at the original site and three at a new clear-felled area. The forests fringing the North Yorkshire Moors easily hold the largest population, especially on the southern fringe. Clearly several hundred churring males are potentially in residence, with a survey of the Langdale Forest complex revealing up to 83 males holding territory.

The annual survey at Thorne Moors located 32 territories, while nearby Hatfield Moors hosted a further 35 territorial males, which compares with a joint total of 68 territories the previous year.

There were no records from Strensall Common, while surveys of Skipwith Common during May drew a blank, with a male only churring briefly on 3rd June.

The fringe of the Pennines near Barnsley/Sheffield held 11 churring males at seven sites, a decrease of six on the previous year. Most sites held single churring males, with the exception of four around Broomhead Moor and two at an additional site.

There were several records of migrants, with a single sitting on a moth trap at dawn on 5th June at Allerton Park and one fed around North Dykes, Flamborough the same evening. A single appeared at Caldene Fields, Bradford on 3rd July. The late records concerned a single at Broomhead Moor on 1st September and a juvenile at Skipwith Common on 20th September.



Nightjar ◉
Colin Wilkinson

SWIFT *Apus apus* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 87/216: –33% (–32) 1995–2009, –57% (–11) 2009–10
There has been a long-term decline in breeding numbers of this trans-Saharan migrant, and it no longer features in the top 15 most common birds in the county. After the apparent local recovery in 2009, numbers were again down.

The first appeared at Beulah Mount, Leeds on 17th April and, the following day, Fairburn Ings hosted a single and Swillington Ings three. The 19th produced singles at Old Moor, Pugney’s CP, Rother Valley and Staveley NR, before a more general arrival occurred over forthcoming days.

High counts during late spring/early summer included 500 at Pugney’s CP and 2100 at Winterset Res on 3rd May, 1200 at Old Moor and 600 at Ripon RC on 30th May, 2000 at Old Moor and 500 at Sherburn Ings on 8th June, 500 at Swillington Ings on 12th June and, finally, Flamborough hosted 2695 on 27th June.

The general impression appeared to be a general decline across the county both in terms of breeding sites and numbers.

From the end of April to mid September, Spurn recorded an amazing 82,230 going south, with the bulk between 23rd June and 21st July. The previous day record stood at 20,000 in both 1970 and 1989, but this was broken on 4th July, when a minimum of 21,000 flew south. Other high counts included 5000 on 29th June, followed by 8800 on 1st July, 7000 on 2nd, 5800 on 7th and 5000 on both 11th and 15th July.

Elsewhere, passage appeared well underway by July, with 250 heading south in ten minutes at North Bay, Scarborough on 1st, with 1470 south in 3.5 hours at Long Nab on 4th. Harthill hosted 550 and Long Nab 220 on 5th July, while 1000 congregated over Ulley Res on 7th.

Inland, visible migration at Oxenhope recorded 810 south on 3rd July, 563 similarly on 10th and 531 south on 11th July. Observers at Sunk Island logged 632 south on 13th July, with 1200 at Old Moor on the same date and a further 407 through Sunk Island on 16th. Further inland, there were 1000 over Birthwith Hall Farm, Darton on 21st July, while 400 appeared over Old Moor on 3rd August.

A single still visited a nest site at East Cottingley, York on 21st September, with singles at Sunk Island and Hessele on 25th, with another at Shelley on 30th. October records included a single at Filey on 2nd, singles at Flamborough on 3rd and 5th, with three at Spurn the same day. The last record related to two at Harwood Dale on 21st October.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* **A** 2,0,0,0,2
Rare migrant from southern Europe; 70 previous records
A single was photographed over Ravenscar on 30th March (A&PT).

More typical, one then flew south past the sea-watching hut at Spurn at 1130hrs on 11th July and was last seen cutting out towards Lincolnshire from the Narrows (SE: NP: RJS *et al.*).

These represented the first records since singles at Filey in April 2006 and Harrogate in July of the same year.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to scarce resident breeder. BBS 5/216
Widely distributed across temperate and southern Europe, most are resident in the west. In the UK some move to the coast and estuaries in winter.

Although widely reported, there were indications that the cold weather had resulted in an adverse impact. There were reports from the usual sites around Scarborough, but breeding not confirmed, while proven at six sites within the Hull Valley. North Cave Wetlands only had sporadic records throughout, but mainly in August and September. The York area attracted regular sightings, with breeding proved at two sites and up to four present at additional locations.

In the south-west, there were regular reports from around Barnsley, although records were more scarce during the big freeze. Breeding took place at five sites, including three pairs at Old Moor, with another at nearby Bolton Ings. Higher counts at Old Moor included ten on 6th June, seven on 18th July and eight on 30th August, then five regularly until mid-November.

Further north, Huddersfield reported a decline, especially in the first part of the year, with records from 25 sites, and four pairs bred, down from seven the previous year. Halifax reported sightings from 16 sites, mainly along the Calder and its tributaries, with just one suspected breeding record. Leeds also reported a decline, but numbers picked up again after the breeding season. There were records from 22 sites around Bradford, although breeding was not proved. Bucking the trend, Upper Wharfedale reported birds from 25 sites, an

increase of six on the previous year and breeding at three regular sites. However, records were received from only 11 sites near Harrogate and there was no confirmed breeding.

Coastal records included a single at Primrose Valley Pond, Filey on 11th and 23rd February, with a single at Filey Dams on nine dates throughout the year. In addition, Scalby Mills hosted a single on 3rd November, followed by one at Seamer Tip Pools on 15th. At Spurn, a single visited the Canal on 20th March and then recorded on nine dates from 25th August until 13th October along the Canal and Church Field Pond areas, with a single caught in Kew Gardens on 2nd October. Finally, a single appeared at Long Bank, Easington on 27th November.

BEE-EATER *Merops apias* **A** 2,5,5,2,4
Rare visitor from southern Europe; 103 previous records (150 birds)
This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular over-shooting spring visitor to the county, with Spurn Point the premier location.

Three flew east over Wold Farm, Flamborough on 23rd May and were soon relocated on wires outside Ocean View nearer the Outer Head, before once again disappearing (JAB: AIH).

One then appeared within a flock of Swifts over Clubley’s Field, Spurn on 1st July, before it flew south over the Seawatching Hut and headed towards Lincolnshire (SE: AR: AJG).

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* **A** 1,1,0,0,1
Vagrant; seven previous records since the 1800s
Breeds from Iberia and north-west Africa eastwards to south-west Siberia and winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

An immature was videoed by workers within the Easington Gas Terminal, where it lurked away from prying eyes, on 12th/13th September (DAd: BN). This represents the third record over the last five years, but only the eighth over the last century, a remarkable upsurge.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **A** 5,0,4,1,3
Rare visitor from Europe; almost annual with 264 previous records
Breeds from France and Iberia eastwards to China and south-east Asia. Western Palearctic breeders winter in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Great Hatfield, in the East Riding, hosted a single on 24th April (GJe *et al.*). The next was picked up dead at Mill Beck Farm, Boggle Hole on 17th October (SB). Finally, the year’s third record related to a single at Weeton, between Patrington and Easington, on 27th October (*per* AJG).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **A** 13,4,33,7,27
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant, rare inland.
Breeds across Eurasia through to Japan; it has been extinct in Britain since 1993. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara and migrating Scandinavian birds occur regularly in the county in spring and autumn.

After a blank spring, there was a multiple arrival during fall conditions on 14th August, when singles made landfall on Carr Naze, Filey (MCol: GSt), the Gorse Field, Flamborough (JBe: VP *et al.*) and north of Spurn, near the Listening Dish (JMT), with the Flamborough individual remaining the next day. These were followed by another by the Crown & Anchor, Kilnsea on 18th August and a single that ranged from Clubley’s Scrape to Sandy Beaches Caravan Park (JC: AAH) and another at the Warren, both on 25th (AAH). The month ended with a single at Flamborough on 27th (AMA) and one at Sammy’s Point on 30th August (CBa).

September opened with a single trapped at Winterset Res on 2nd which represented only the second site record (PS *et al.*). A spell of easterlies at the end of the first week induced a further influx, starting with one trapped at the Warren, Spurn on 6th (AAH). The following day, no fewer than ten arrived along the coastal strip, including one at South Gare that stayed until 12th (MAB *et al.*). Further south, Filey hosted two, in the Country Park and Filey Dams (FXM: CW), while a single was ringed at Buckton (MT). There were two along Old Fall Hedge, Flamborough (RAB: TDi *et al.*) and four in the Spurn area: at Post 64 (RT), Church Field (AAH), another along the road between Kilnsea and Easington and a single at Sammy’s Point (RT). A single then lingered at the Point, Spurn from 8th–12th September, while more unusually, a single graced Thornton Moor Res on 9th (HMC), the sixth record for the site. The next made landfall on Carr Naze, Filey on 26th, where it remained in residence until 4th October (FXM *et al.*). On 27th September, singles appeared at the Point, Spurn (SWa) and Beacon Lane, Kilnsea (AA), with another at Sammy’s Point the next day (KF: JL *et al.*).

The year’s last took up residence in South Gare Quarry from 9th–12th October (NAP: JRo *et al.*).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident. BBS 26/216

A European species that is expanding northwards in Britain, possibly due to climate change. Although it is recorded from many localities from across the region, it remains scarce in the Holderness area of East Yorkshire.

There were numerous reports in the north–east, with frequent sightings in the wooded valleys fringing the northern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors, the Leven Valley and also Urley Nook and at least four pairs bred. Similarly, away from the coast, there were numerous records from the Scarborough area, with at least seven breeding sites. In the Hull Valley, breeding was suspected at four sites, with records received from a further eight. Skipwith Common held three breeding pairs, with a brood of five newly fledged young eaten by Carrion Crows.

The population continues to do well in the south–west, with widespread reports from the Sheffield, Huddersfield and Halifax areas. Although still well distributed across Barnsley, there was an 80% decrease from upland sites, presumably a legacy of the inclement weather experienced over recent winters. There were seven pairs in the Worsborough Valley and four pairs at Winterset, while two pairs bred at Old Moor, with another at nearby Bolton Ings. Fairburn Ings also hosted two breeding pairs. The Leeds area reported fewer records than normal, with reports from 20 sites and just two proven breeding attempts, but the situation seemed better near Bradford, where there were five breeding pairs.

Although there were no positive signs of breeding within Upper Wharfedale, there were records from 47 sites, a slight increase on the previous year. Immediately to the north, the picture was similar around Harrogate, with records from 22 sites, breeding being proved at six.

A site rarity, a single stayed on Castle Hill, Scarborough from 20th–26th December.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* **A**
Fairly common resident; scarce passage migrant in autumn.
BBS 67/216: +60% (+120) 1995–2009, +27% (+5) 2009–10

The population of the resident subspecies *anglicus* continues to increase rapidly, both nationally and locally, and it is an increasingly familiar sight at bird tables. Numbers this year were back up. Nominate race birds from Scandinavia are occasional immigrants.

Despite the cold snap in early 2010, most references referred to either a stable or an increasing population. Higher counts included 13 at Bretton Lakes on 17th January and again on 2nd March, where eight territories were eventually established. Worsborough Valley held between 14 to 16 breeding pairs, with Winterset Res a further 11 pairs, the same as the previous year. Further east, Skipwith Common held ten pairs.

Spurn’s first post–breeding season record occurred on 5th July and, after singles on three dates in August, there were regular sightings until the last on 16th November. Most records were of no more than two, but three were seen twice, as well as four on 11th September, six on 7th October and four on 17th October. The autumn total of 75 bird/days included 13 flying south.

At Filey, singles trapped on 16th and 17th October showed long wing–lengths, indicative of the continental race *D. m. major*.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident, rare in south–east. BBS 1/216

The national population is declining significantly, and although South Yorkshire remains a relative stronghold, all records need reporting.

Records from 76 sites represented a significant increase on the 58 from the previous year, although 40 of these were from the Barnsley/Sheffield area, and indications of breeding only came from eight sites (11 in 2009). The more favoured locations were Beeley Wood, Haw Park, Graves Park and the Rivelin Valley, with occupied nest holes located in the latter two areas. There were sightings from 13 sites around Halifax/Huddersfield and, although breeding remained unproven, a male drummed regularly in April from Halifax’s Coach Road.

Only eight sites produced records in the Bradford/Leeds area, down from 12 the previous year, with most from the Hirst Wood & Shipley Glen area. A nest hole was excavated at the former site, but the site was apparently then deserted, while drumming was heard at Little Preston on 17th March. Adel Dam recorded four singles during the year, with Yeadon Tarn attracting a female in late September and a male in November and early December. Fairburn Ings hosted singles on 3rd February, 6th March and 19th November.

Upper Wharfedale reported records from three sites, including the Washburn Valley, with drumming recorded at Barden Bridge and Washburn. There was a slight improvement in the Harrogate area, with individuals noted at six sites, again the majority of these were around Ripon, including a single drumming at Littlethorpe Mires on 23rd March and a pair visited High Batts NR on 6th April. In addition, Aldwark Wood contained a recently excavated nesthole, with the eventual outcome unknown.

Further east, the York area attracted records from Copmanthorpe on 4th, Skipwith Common on 25th January, Wheldrake Ings on 11th February and a male fed on ‘fat balls’ at Skipwith on several dates in March.

Potteric Carr hosted a single on sporadic dates from the start of the year until 25th July. Isolated records involved singles at Hull on 6th February, a male drumming on Thorne Moors on 8th and 13th April and one at Saltmarshe Delph on 2nd May.

At the onset of the freezing weather, a female came regularly to a ‘fat ball’ at Stocksbridge from 8th–19th December, while a male and female regularly associated with tit flocks in Haw Park during December.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant

A partial migrant, the small UK population has recently expanded northwards, possibly due to climate change.

The only coastal migrants during spring were a single flying north–west over Spurn Point on 20th April and one heading south–east over Sammy’s Point the next day.

During the breeding season the sandy heaths along the spine of the county tend to be favoured, especially those located within the Vale of York and in the Humberhead Levels. Data was not received from all sites, but 32 potential pairs were located, although only seven of these were confirmed breeding.

On Skipwith Common, the first male sang on 1st March. Three or four pairs were thought to be present, along with up to two other singing males. Although confirmed breeding was unproven at Skipwith, four together on 26th September possibly related to a family party.

Inland, singles headed over Thornton Res near Bradford on 22nd September and 10th October. Along the coast, a single flew south at Grimston on 17th October. The following day another headed south at Spurn Point. Finally, a single at North Cave Wetlands on 19th November represented a new species for the reserve.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 157/216: +7% (–23) 1995–2009, –4% (–6) 2009–10

This Palearctic species has been in long–term national decline. However, in the county it seems to have been fairly stable since 1995. A slight recovery 2006–2008 seen in BBS surveys has been followed by two years of apparent decline.

The cold snap and associated snow in January forced impressive numbers to the coast, with Long Nab attracting 800 on 2nd January and Scalby Lodge 1000 the next day. On 5th January, the same Long Nab/Scalby Lodge area hosted an impressive 4500 and, further north, 500 arrived in small parties between Saltburn and Marske the same day. Flamborough attracted 470 and the Speeton/Buckton area held 100 on 3rd January, Filey pulled in 120 at the Tip on 6th, Buckton 900 on 8th and the following day, there were 730 at Flamborough and 550 at Filey. Later in the month, Flamborough still attracted flocks totaling 490 on 16th. However, as the thaw set in, the numbers in the Long Nab/Scalby area fell quickly to leave just 20 by 17th. The same day witnessed 200 heading over the Tip at Filey and 33 flew south at Spurn Point and 76 came in off the sea there. Later in the month, 80 were feeding in rape fields at Filey on 30th January. Inland flocks included 100 at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd January, 70 around Allerston on 11th and 70 at Dewsbury SW on 12th.

In spring, 30 sheltered around the Malham Tarn Outflow during a cold snap on 2nd April. Passage along the coast included 305 south at Spurn between 16th February and 27th May and another 54 in off the sea.

During the breeding season, management funded through High Level Stewardship helped Flamborough host 200 pairs, with Spurn attracting five pairs. Fairburn reported 42 pairs, down by a third on the last two years. Elsewhere, Swillington and Winterset each attracted 30 singing males, Edderthorpe 23, the Harpham/Kelk Beck area 20 and Nosterfield NR a further 15 territorial males. In the Pennines, Stainburn had 25 singing males on 7th March, much higher than in previous years.

The autumn passage at Spurn extended from 12th September until 19th December where 2514 flew south and 152 came in off the sea. The best counts related to 194 on 30th September, 273 on 2nd October, 417 on 4th, 183 on 7th, 128 on 27th and 125 on 30th October, while 90 headed south on 3rd November. Visible migration at inland sites included 1019 through Winterset between 11th September and 16th November, with peaks of 90 on 22nd September and 103 on 24th October. Stainburn Moor recorded 514 in September, 191 in October and 56 moving through in November. Passage clearly peaked in October, with bests of 141 south at Speeton Gap on 2nd, 108 over Firsby Res on 7th, 72 south at Staveley NR on 8th, 54 over Ulley CP on 9th, 230 south over Old Moor on 10th, 290 over Nosterfield NR on 20th, 55 south–west over Harden Quarries on 24th, 110 over Old Moor on 25th and, finally, 75 south–west over Danes Dyke, Flamborough on 30th October.

In November, 200 were flushed from a stubble field at Thurgory Lane on 10th, 74 were near Dawson’s Wood, Hook Moor on 13th, 80 gathered at Old Moor on 25th, East Cottingwith hosted a flock of 150 on 26th, Wykeham

Lakes 80 on 27th and 372 at Flamborough at the month end. As the December cold snap started to bite, 12 flew south at Hunmanby Gap on 3rd, with 330 at Filey and 1000 in the Long Nab/Scalby Lodge area the following day. Flamborough hosted 470 and Hay-a-Park GP, a further 64 on 6th and 176 headed north over Spurn on 21st December.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **A** 19,10,2,2,39
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.

In the first winter period, two were at Briel Newk, Flamborough from 1st–3rd January (E&NP *et al.*), with another at the Blue Dolphin, Filey on 17th January (J&TGD).

The autumn influx was much improved than of late and also started relatively early at the end of September, with two on the Humber shore at Chalk Bank, Spurn from 27th–29th, another on the Cabin Rocks, South Gare on 28th (MAB: AK *et al.*) and a single in off the sea at the Narrows, Spurn on 30th.

In October, the first appeared at Crook Ness, north of Long Nab on 3rd, followed by three at the Point and a single at post 46, Spurn on 9th, with presumably the same four at Chalk Bank the next day. Barmston hosted two on 20th and another appeared at Crook Ness on 25th October. There was a flurry of records in the Spurn area at the end of October, starting with three at Beacon Ponds on 28th, eight the next day, seven on 30th, on which date six more flew south over Spurn and two remained at Beacon Ponds on 31st.

Two made landfall on Carr Naze, Filey on 2nd November (CW), another graced the Blue Dolphin area of Filey on 15th (J&TGD), a single appeared on the Humber shore at Spurn the following day and, finally, Sunk Island hosted a party of six on 29th November (JW).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 13/216

The population of this sub-Saharan migrant is stable or slightly increasing.

The first were five at Knotford Nook on 11th March, six days before the next which were two at Swillington Ings, three at Potteric Carr, a single at Sands Lane GP and three at Hay-a-Park GP on 17th. On 18th new arrivals were noted at Winterset, Old Moor, Broomhill Flash, Fairburn Ings, Farnham GP, Staveley NR and Flasks Lake, followed the next day by singles at Filey Dams, Hunmanby Gap and Spurn Point. However, large parties also congregated over inland waters on 19th, with 100 at Swillington Ings the best. By 21st March, 300 were at Swillington Ings and 40 at Pugney's CP, where numbers then built up to 500 by the end of the month.



Sand Martins ◉
Ray Scally

Larger flocks during April were especially prevalent in the west, although 250 congregated over Potteric Carr on 7th April. On 19th April a cold snap forced 3000 to feed over the waters around Nosterfield and there were also 600 at Pugney's CP, 260 at Winterset and 280 at Thrybergh CP the same day.

On 22nd April, a 'vis mig' watch recorded 130 heading over Skinningrove. In May large feeding flocks included 1000 at Hay-a-Park GP on 2nd, 200 at Wykeham Lakes the next day and 500 over Lingham Lake on 8th. A total of 1090 were recorded heading south through Spurn until 5th June, with peak numbers logged during April, with bests of 249 on 22nd, 160 on 24th and 195 on 25th.

Breeding colonies were widely reported and some of the more notable consisted of 128 holes at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, 98 at Wykeham Lakes, 120 at Barmston and 300 at the new quarry workings at North Cave Wetlands. Spurn Point hosted two pairs breeding below the sea-watching hut, the first time since 2004. The breeding season within the Wharfe Valley was regarded as modest, with most colony sizes much reduced on recent years.

The largest summer gatherings related to 220 at Allerthorpe on 23rd July, 700 at Winterset on 13th August and 600 at Edderthorpe Flash the next day. In August, Swillington Ings attracted 1500 on 16th, with 1000 present on several days to the end of the month. Other notable roosts at the end of August included one at Old Moor, where there were 500 on 24th and at Winterset, where 550 were present on 26th and 1150 on 31st.

The post-breeding passage through Spurn was above average, particularly of first brood juveniles moving through between late June and late July. In the period between 22nd June and 9th October, 8927 flew south at Spurn, the highest counts in July relating to 616 on 8th, 534 on 17th, 1810 on 19th, 564 on 20th and 1243 on 21st. There were fewer moving south through Spurn during August, with a peak of 200 on 21st.

A significant late passage of 250 headed west at Stainburn Moor on 28th September. Late records included a single over Filey CP on 1st October, three over Farnham GP and one over Tophill Low NR the next day, one over Little Studley Meadows, Ripon on 3rd and again on 7th, singles over Staveley NR and Firsby Res on 4th and one over North Cave Wetlands on 9th October, while a particularly late individual headed south through Spurn on 19th October.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 167/216: +18% (+33) 1995–2009, –11% (+4) 2009–10

The population each year is variable, perhaps depending on factors affecting wintering areas in South Africa and migration routes, but the overall trend remains a positive one.

The first appeared over the Allerton Estate, Bradford on 13th March, followed by three over Yeadon Tarn and one at Fewston on 16th and three at Thorne Moors the next day. A single appeared at Staveley NR on 19th, followed by singles at Tophill Low and Nosterfield NR on 20th and one at Fairburn and two over Long Nab on 21st. New arrivals on 22nd included a single at Winterset CP and two at Pit-house West, Sheffield. Numbers then began to build through April, with 300 around the Nosterfield complex and up to 200 regularly at Winterset by the middle of the month. Elsewhere, 225 were feeding over Hay-a-Park GP and 156 roosted at Catcliffe Flash on 19th April and there were 200 at Meltham SW and 300 headed north at Hummersea on 30th April. May peaks included 200 at Farnham GP and 245 at nearby Hay-a-Park GP on 2nd, 250 at Winterset on 3rd, 140 at Fairburn Ings on 11th May and 270 at Eastwood SW on 14th.

Southerly passage at Spurn during spring appeared average, with 16,247 flying south up to 12th June, with most moving through between 26th April and 27th May, with the maximum being 1500 on 16th May.

Detailed breeding information was received from Upper Wharfedale, where an average of 3.1 young per nest were ringed in 51 nests, compared with an average of 4.3/nest over the previous four years. Near Harrogate, 81 young were ringed from 45 nests monitored, while of the 14 breeding pairs at Spurn, half had second broods.

Two roosts at Old Moor contained 4000 on 11th September. A roost in a maize field at Bishop Monkton was monitored from mid-August to early October, peaking at 1000 on 21st September. The roost was mist-netted on fourteen occasions, with three 18-metre nets capturing 1207 individuals, of which 91% were juveniles. There were seven controls, mostly of locally ringed nestlings, but one ringed as a juvenile in East Lothian, Scotland on 27th July was controlled on 21st September.

At Winterset, numbers built up from early July with 250 on 8th and at least 300 present almost daily until early September, with August peaks of 700 on 13th, 550 on 26th and 1150 on 31st. Elsewhere, 600 fed over Thorne Moors on 2nd August.

Passage through Thornton Moor took place from mid-August to mid-October; a total of 9500 were logged, with movement peaking at 3125 on 21st September. At Sunk Island 1934 moved through on 28th August, 1664 on 12th September and 424 on 4th October. Elsewhere, passage and post-breeding flocks in the first half of

September were recorded as follows: 239 over Hunter Hill, Halifax and 600 at Winterset on 1st, 200 over Cold Edge, Halifax on 3rd, 400 at Dunnington Common on 8th, 400 at Tophill Low on 9th and 335 over Redmires Res and 491 south over Harden Quarries on 11th. Substantial numbers still featured in the latter half of September and included 359 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 17th, 500 at Nosterfield NR on 18th, 400 over Farnham GP and 425 south over Winterset on 22nd and 500 over Staveley NR on 30th.

At the start of October good numbers included 150 over Farnham GP and 150 over Nosterfield NR on 2nd, 80 roosted at the aforementioned Bishop Monkton on 3rd and there were 150 over Staveley NR on 4th and 80 over Farnham GP on 10th.

Passage at Spurn was recorded from 17th June to 5th November, with 53,858 logged heading south during this period, the best year since 2003. Over 1000 were recorded on ten dates, with peaks of 2900 on 18th August and 2300 on 28th, 18,250 on 9th September, 6375 on 11th, 4500 on 12th, 2055 on 22nd September and 1865 on 5th October. Additional coastal passage included 800 south at Cloughton Wyke on 10th September, a continuous stream of 1000 that headed north-west over Hummersea on 11th, the same day that 125 flew south at Hunmanby Gap. On 12th September 120 headed west over Buckton, with a further 400 over Hummersea on 14th and 265 tracking south over Hunmanby Gap on 15th.

Late records included a single at Farnham GP and two at Barmston on 27th October and a single at Sunk Island on 31st. In November there were singles at Hemlington Lakes on 4th, Spurn the next day and at Patrington on 14th November.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* **A**

Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 65/216: -28% (-15) 1995-2009, -13% (-2) 2009-10

This trans-Saharan migrant appears to be in long-term decline across Europe, but BBS data suggests that after a slight recovery in the 1990s, there has been a sharp decline in England since 2004. 2010 was the fifth year in a row with decreased occurrences reported in BBS squares in the county.

The first were four over Potteric Carr on 23rd March, before a single at Staveley NR and three over North Cave on 31st. April opened with singles at Lockwood Beck and Winterset on 1st, four were over Elland GP and singles at Pugney's CP and Hatfield Moors on 4th and a single appeared at Cooper Bridge the next day. The most noteworthy spring gatherings were in May, with 110 over Thrybergh CP on 3rd, 150 over Fairburn on 8th and 400 over Winterset on 29th.

After the first at Spurn on 6th April, a further 1118 flew south there up until 13th June, peaking at 526 on 27th May.

There were numerous breeding reports that included ten nests at Warrenby Cottage, Kilnsea, 13 nests at Timble each produced two broods and there were nine nests on the valve tower at Scar House Res. At Sharow, Ripon eight out of ten artificial nests in a 'martin cote' were occupied and 35 young later ringed.

Post-breeding flocks during August included 200 at Jagger Green on 15th, 300 at Ingbirchworth on 24th, 208 at Sunk Island on 27th and 300 at Skipton SW on 31st. September maxima were 160 at Pocklington on 1st, 300 at Firsby Res on 10th, 250 at Thrybergh CP on 17th, 200 at Elland GP on 20th and 160 at Staveley NR on 30th. Inland, passage over Thornton Moor peaked at 680 on 4th September and 100 headed south over Langsett in 30 minutes on 6th September.

Passage at Spurn extended from 22nd June until 30th October, with 5099 logged heading south and peak counts of 480 on 9th September, 400 on 12th, 622 on 15th, 845 on 23rd September and 556 on 5th October.

Elsewhere, coastal passage was noted at Skinningrove, where 50 went south on 7th August and 100 on 28th August and at Flamborough, where numbers peaked at 277 on 21st August. In September 220 flew south at Skinningrove on 14th September and an impressive 1203 flew south over Hunmanby Gap in two hours on 15th September.

The final inland record related to two at Pugney's CP on 3rd November, with one remaining at Spurn until 6th November.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **A**

1,3,2,12,10

Rare passage migrant; 76 previous records (82 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

The first spring overshoot fed briefly over the Bay Brambles, Flamborough on 29th April (PC). The next day a single flew south past the seawatching hide at Spurn at 0935hrs (SE: AR). Three discovered at Kingswood on

the River Hull on 2nd May initially proved elusive, but two then remained in the Wawne/Weel area until 8th May (SHo *et al.*). Two appeared on 3rd May, including a long-stayer that proved co-operative at Rother Valley CP from 3rd-14th May (KRG *et al.*). In addition, one fed low during the evening over Wheldrake Ings also on 3rd May (AMa). The next flew south at Spurn at 0730hrs on 23rd May (JC *et al.*) and two days later one flew over Lovell Hill (SCN: MTu).

For the second consecutive year, there was an autumn record at Spurn, with a juvenile feeding with House Martins over the Church Fields, Kilnsea on 7th September before it headed off north (AAH *et al.*).

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **A**

10,12,5,10,10

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September *en route* to uncertain wintering grounds.

Nine records occurred during the typical late September and October period, with a slightly later individual discovered inland. The first made landfall near 'Booted Gully' at Flamborough on 27th September (RAB: PC), followed by one south at Easington Gas Terminal the next day (AJG *et al.*) and a single at the Fog Station, Flamborough on 29th September (RAB *et al.*). There were no further records until 10th October, when singles were discovered at Buckton (MT) and Grange Farm, Flamborough (CCT *et al.*). These heralded a small influx, with singles at Spurn (MCu) and Boulby (MAB *et al.*) on 12th, the latter remaining to the next day. Two were then found at Buckton on 14th, with one still present on 16th October (MT *et al.*). A single at Cromer Point on 15th October remained along the stretch of coast between Long Nab and Scalby Lodge until 22nd October (SW *et al.*). Finally, the year's last turned up unexpectedly on the edge of moorland and upland pasture in Sliddale on 7th November, where it showed well to would-be Rough-legged Buzzard twitchers (ASJ: RDU *et al.*).

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

0,0,1,0,1

Rare passage migrant; 28 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean region from Iberia east to South Asia and winters in the Sahel.

Only the second confirmed record in five years was photographed at Grimston on 30th April and represented an unusual discovery away from Spurn (TI).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor to north and west. BBS 7/216

A nationally declining migrant from south of the Sahara that breeds throughout most of the Palearctic including Arctic Scandinavia, but rarely in Ireland. Its range has been contracting in England, and has almost disappeared from the east of the county.

The first report referred to a singing male at Wharnccliffe Chase, Sheffield on 8th April, followed by another at Strensall Common the next day. A single then appeared at Goodbent Lodge, Huddersfield on 17th, with several further reports on 18th that included three singing males at Strensall Common, a singing male at Wykeham Forest and a single in off the sea at Carr Naze, Filey.

Spring's visible migration was less evident than recently, with numbers at Spurn reaching a new low, with just seven singles between 21st April and 25th May. Seven were also reported from Filey, with two on both 27th and 29th April. Flamborough fared a little better, with 11 recorded in the same period, with a maximum of three on 30th April. Two also moved through Hunt Cliff on 25th April.

By mid-May most breeding territories were occupied, with reports typically restricted to the upland fringe and lowland heaths. Maxima included 15 territories at Wharnccliffe Chase on 4th June, 14 on Hatfield Moors, eight at both Langdale Forest, in the North Yorkshire Moors, on 28th April and in the Little Don/Swinden area and seven territories at Blacka Moor, Sheffield on 20th April. In addition, there were six territories at Strensall Common, Stainburn Moor and at Greenfield and three territories at Thorne Moors, Withen's Clough near Halifax and Yearsley Moor near York. The number breeding in Upper Wharfedale increased from 15 to 18 pairs. However, these figures masked an ongoing decline in the southern half of Wharfedale, with only three records from the traditional stronghold of Timble Ings.

Away from the heathlands, the only reports from lowland areas were of singing males at Oulton, Leeds on 20th-22nd April and Lindley Wood Res on 4th May. Later in the summer, a male took up residence at Silverwood Pit Top, Rotherham from 1st-14th July and a single sang at Firsby Res on 1st July.

The only notable post-breeding flock related to a remarkable 22 at Langdale Forest on 20th July.

The first returning migrants were evident at Spurn on 10th August and then up to six were seen almost daily to early October. High counts in September included 27 on 7th, 19 on 8th, 16 on 9th, and 25 on 27th. The autumn's

bird/day total at Spurn was a respectable 173, of which 32 flew south. Passage at other east coast locations was also above average, including seven at Buckton on 7th September and six at both South Gare again on 7th September and Flamborough on 27th September.

Inland migrants included nine roosting at Allerthorpe Common near York on 27th August, five flying south-west over Redmires Res on 21st August, four over Ripon Parks, Harrogate on 22nd August and a total of 26 passing through Redcar Tarn, Reva Hill, Oxenhope and Warley Moor near Bradford during August and September. Seven also headed over Winterset in August and September.

The latest singles appeared over Moscar Cross, Sheffield on 2nd October, Flamborough on 8th, Spurn on 13th and, finally, at Filey on 14th October.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* **A**
Amber list: common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 97/216: -14% (-16) 1995-2009, +7% (+-4) 2009-10

There has been a moderate long-term national decline, and although in the county its strongholds remain on the moors, loss of marginal habitat may be contributing to local decline, and it is now of conservation concern.

During the early months reports were few and far between and rarely involved more than five; exceptions being 100 at Horbury on 6th-7th January, 50 at Edderthorpe on 20th February, 45 at Treeton SW on 10th January and 34 at Flamborough on 3rd January.

Spring passage was evident from the beginning of March and at Spurn 636 flew south and 366 came in off the sea and continued north-west between 2nd March and 25th April. The only days recording treble figures were 95 south and 11 in off the sea on 27th March and 10 south and 96 in off the sea on 7th April. The most spectacular northerly movement took place at Hummersea, where the north-west to south-east orientation of the coast acts as a leading line for northerly migrants; 1130 flew north along the cliff on 22nd March. Smaller numbers were also noted at nearby Hunt Cliff, with maxima of 233 north on 27th March and 133 on 17th April, whilst 250 flew inland up Easington Beck Valley on 27th March.

Breeding pairs in the uplands started to reappear from early March, with a notable influx around 17th. Over 100 were back on their territories at Wharnccliffe Side on 22nd March and 140 were noted at Barden in the Yorkshire Dales NP on 23rd March. However, the first did not return to Malham until 24th March, when 40 were present. Elsewhere, the largest count was 200 at Midhope Res on 9th April. During this period, large feeding flocks were widely reported, including 100 at Staveley NR on 27th March, 80 at Edderthorpe on 7th March and 50 at both Swillington Park on 17th March and Crimsworth Dean, Halifax, on 7th April.

Whilst there were few systematic counts of breeding populations, those that were carried out suggested numbers were similar to recent years. Counts on coastal areas highlighted the importance of open grassland and wetland, with 52 pairs breeding on the Flamborough Headland, 19 pairs at Spurn and 38 pairs at Blacktoft. Surprisingly, only one pair was reported from the lowland heath at Strensall Common. A nest of young predated by an Adder in Birk Gill, Colsterdale on 3rd July is possibly a common occurrence, but something rarely witnessed.

There were few reports of post-breeding flocks, although numbers at several moorland sites started to build up in July, including 100 at Cold Edge, Halifax on 16th, 200 at Ogden GC on 28th and 100 at Crimsworth Dean on 30th.

Autumn migration was very impressive, with record counts at both coastal and inland sites. At Spurn, a total of 46,900 flew south between 18th August and 23rd November. The peak passage occurred in the middle two weeks in September, when favourable conditions produced high counts of 5360 on 9th, 3536 on 10th, 3341 on 11th, 5230 on 12th, 15,000 on 15th and 3500 on 16th. Passage continued in good numbers at Spurn into October, including 1117 on 4th, 559 on 5th and 366 on 7th. Late passage included 109 on 2nd and 218 on 22nd November. Most had cleared out when the cold weather arrived in late November, but a record 2441 were ringed at Spurn during the year, approximately a fifth of the average annual UK total.

Autumn totals of Meadow Pipits moving south over Spurn in the last ten years

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
20,975	9,700	19,500	38,352	26,000	32,516	18,440	46,488	13,848	46,900

Elsewhere on the coast, large numbers moved south over Hunmanby Gap, with a best of 3044 in three hours on 12th September and 1000 flew south over Speeton on 21st September. Numbers at Flamborough were much lower, with 549 on 15th September and 695 on 9th October.

Inland, record counts were recorded at Oxenhope, Bradford with a total of 21,500 moving south or south-west during September and October, with counts into four figures on five days. Whilst in the lowlands, Winterset

Res produced a steady stream moving south on 34 dates between 28th August and 16th November, producing a total of 4822, with peak counts of 1118 on 12th September, 668 on 30th September and 327 on 7th October.

Elsewhere, smaller scale movements included 1072 over six dates between 17th September and 17th October at Wharnccliffe Chase, with a peak of 303 on 7th October. At Harden, south of Huddersfield, 634 flew south on 12th September, whilst tallies at Hunter Hill near Halifax included 621 heading south on 21st September and 303 south-west on 7th October. At Old Moor, 560 moved south on three dates between 11th September and 10th October, with a peak of 280 on 12th September and 200 flew south over Nosterfield NR on both 18th September and 2nd October.

Whilst the majority had left the uplands by mid-October and much of lowland Yorkshire by early November, typically, small numbers remained, including 30 in the snow at Long Nab, Scarborough, on 30th November and 50 at Orgreave, Sheffield on 30th December. At least one lingered in the uplands at Swales Moor, Halifax on 31st December.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* **A**
Fairly common coastal resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
Resident around rocky coastlines of Britain, Ireland and northern France.

It is very difficult to disentangle the movements and wintering populations of Fenno-Scandinavian birds, of the race *A.p.littoralis*, from the resident populations of the nominate race *petrosus*. Ringing recoveries suggest that populations of the race *petrosus* are generally resident, although there is evidence of local dispersive movements especially in populations in the north of the range (Wernham *et al.*, 2002). It is likely that the majority noted inland/on visible migration, refer to the race *littoralis*.

The highest count in the early part of the year referred to a flock of 11 feeding in a stubble field at Buckton on 14th January. Elsewhere, maxima included ten at Saltburn on 5th January, six at both Flamborough and, more unusually, at Patrington on 23rd January, five at Scarborough between the North Bay and the harbour on 2nd January and four at Filey Brigg on 24th January.

Passage was evident in March with up to three at Spurn on 15 days. During the spring, 16 flew south and two came in off the sea and continued north-west at the observatory. The last on passage at Spurn was recorded on 24th April.

Inland reports were scarce, with singles at Farnham GP on 21st February, Calder Wetlands on 19th March, Skelton Lake, with possibly the same at Swillington Ings, on 25th March and Ingbirchworth Res on 8th April.

Individuals showing the characteristics of the *littoralis* race included one at Dewsbury SW on 21st February, two at Grimston on 20th March and singles at Skinningrove on 22nd March, Winterset Res on 7th April and Spurn on 9th April, with two present there on 10th April.

Breeding reports were received from Flamborough, Bempton, Speeton and Filey Cliffs.

In contrast to the spring, it was a superb autumn passage at Spurn, where the first flew south on 9th September. By 28th November a further 720 had flown south and 126 had come in off the sea, including high counts of 68 on 30th September, 58 on 7th October, 70 on 21st, 86 on 27th and 54 on 28th October. Despite these numbers, no more than six were grounded.

Elsewhere on the coast, autumn maxima included 19 at Flamborough Head on 16th November and 15 on 14th October, 12 at both Carr Naze, Filey on 28th September and Marine Drive, Scarborough on 2nd October, nine at Skinningrove on 19th October, seven at Long Nab on 16th November and six at South Gare on 1st November.

Inland, Winterset attracted nine during the autumn, starting with two on 28th September and the last single on 12th November. Old Moor recorded eight between 30th September and 31st October, with two on 25th October. Elsewhere, singles were reported from St Aidan's, Leeds on 8th and 20th October, Eccup Res on 11th and 12th October and Wheldrake Ings on 21st and 30th October, when another flew north-east over Redmires Res. Singles were also reported on three days in October at Southfield Res.

Singles visited Hessle on 15th November and Dewsbury SW on 17th December and two at Flamborough on 20th December were thought to be *littoralis*.

Towards the year end, up to eight remained in the Filey and Flamborough areas, but more unusually, a single turned up inland at Pugney's CP on 16th December.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* **A** 39,31,54,30,21
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe
This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.

In the early months, there were few reports from the traditional stronghold of Blacktoft Sands, with no more than two present from January to March. In the north-east, the two wintering at Coatham Marsh were still

present on 1st January, although only a single remained from 2nd–22nd January. The single wintering in the Snaygill Ings area was last seen on 9th/10th January. Singles were also recorded from Patrington Outstray on 23rd January and Swillington Ings from 9th–11th January.

It was a good year for spring passage, with singles flying south at Spurn on 1st March, at Sunk Island on 19th, Calder Wetlands on 21st, Low Marishes near Scarborough from 25th–29th and Swillington Ings on 30th March–2nd April. Another lingered at neighbouring Fairburn Ings from 1st –2nd April. Singles were also noted in breeding plumage, in the company of a *littoralis* race Rock Pipit, on Canal Scrape, Spurn from 9th–11th April and at Cromer Pond, Scarborough on 10th–11th. Inland, two were seen at York University on 21st April, with spring’s last, in breeding plumage at Cromer Pond on 25th April.

The first to return appeared relatively early at Long Nab, Scarborough on 3rd October. This was followed by a single noted sporadically in the Swillington Ings/St Aidan’s area from 19th October until 13th November. Elsewhere, one dropped in at Old Moor on 31st October and appeared again on 14th November, followed by one at Scaling Dam on 16th November. A single lingered on South Landing beach, Flamborough from 5th November until 3rd December and was followed by another at Clubley’s Scrape, Spurn from 5th–6th December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* A
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*flavissima*): uncommon and decreasing breeding summer visitor/passage migrant. BBS 27/216

The British race *flavissima* winters in West Africa and is decreasing (down nationally by 55% since 1995), probably due to changes in agricultural practices.

The first arrived early at St Aidan’s on 31st March, followed by singles at Harry Croft’s Quarry, Rotherham on 2nd April, Pugney’s CP on 3rd and Winterset Res, Pulfin & High Eske and Spurn on 6th April, after which sightings were almost daily.

At Spurn, grounded migrants remained in single figures apart from late April, when there were 14 on 24th, 30 on 26th and 20 the next day. ‘Flava’ passage through Spurn was reasonable during spring, with 292 flying south by 5th June, including excellent highs of 66 on 26th April, 29 on 28th and 28 on both 29th and 30th April. Elsewhere, there was a maximum of 40 on the cliff top at Grimston on 25th April and numbers also peaked in late April at Flamborough, with 16 on 24th, 13 on 28th and a peak of 34 on 29th April, followed by 21 on 1st May.

Inland, maxima included 20 at Thorne Moors on 26th April, 15 at Fairburn Ings on 21st, 13 at Orgreave, Sheffield on 19th, 12 between East Cottingwith and Ellerton on 30th April and ten at Old Moor on 24th April.

During the breeding season, good numbers were widely reported from lowland areas in East and North Yorkshire, including six pairs in both the Buckton and Speeton areas, where the majority of the local population breeds in arable crops. Similarly, six pairs were reported from Tophill Low, the Kelk/Gembling area and at least five reported from both the Paull Holme Strays and Foston areas. Further inland, pairs were located in suitable breeding habitat around the Harrogate and York area and small numbers bred east of Leeds and in the Wakefield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield areas. In contrast there were mixed fortunes from what used to be the upland stronghold in the Yorkshire Dales. Although seven pairs held territory in both the Malham and Littondale areas, there were no reports from mid–Wharfedale.

By the end of July, most had left the upland breeding grounds. Family parties started to appear at Spurn in late June, and up to 15 were present in the area until mid–September, while East Cottingwith hosted 20 on 29th July.

It was a good autumn for southbound passage, with a total of 634 heading south at Spurn between 23rd June and 6th October. High counts included 27 on 17th August, 109 on 18th, 39 the next day, 34 on 21st, 37 on 24th August, 70 on 9th September and 23 on 12th September. Flocks of up to 40 were present at Sammy’s Point in August and early September. Inland reports of visible migration were scarcer, although a total of 38 tracked south over Stainburn Moor, Harrogate in August/September, with a best of 21 on 5th September. In contrast, the ‘vis mig’ team at Oxenhope only recorded five individuals in the same period.

A flock at St Aidan’s reached double figures by 16th August and peaked at 50 from 8th–12th September. During this same period, there were peaks of 21 at Flamborough on 21st August, 30 at Southfield Res and 20 feeding on the village pasture at Binnington, near Scarborough, from 31st August–2nd September, 20 at Wheldrake Ings on 8th September and 12 at Filey CP on 19th September. Nine at Scout Dike Res on 4th September represented a record count for this well watched Pennine site.

The latest reports related to three at Buckton on 28th September and singles at Carlton Marsh, St Aidan’s, Pugney’s CP and Orgreave Lakes on 2nd October. Subsequently, there were singles at Nosterfield NR and Pugney’s CP on 3rd, Silverwood Tip, near Rotherham on 8th October and one at Flasks Lake on the very late date of 30th October.

‘Male–type’ individuals resembling *M.f.flava–flavissima* intergrades, known as ‘Channel Wagtails’, visited Tophill Low on 16th April and Watton NR on 18th April.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* A
Passage migrant

Breeds in western continental Europe from Southern Scandinavia south to Northern Iberia and east to the Balkans.

There were fewer reports than recently. The first, a male, appeared at Spurn on 24th April followed by another at Scalby Lodge Pond on 29th April. Singles were then recorded at Flamborough on 9th and 16th May, with a male flying north over Orgreave Lakes on the latter date. The last were noted at Flamborough and Brampton Common, in South Yorkshire, on 23rd May.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* A
Rare migrant

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.

Highly unusual, the only record appeared in the South Pennines, when a male dropped in at Deer Hill Res, Huddersfield on 10th May (DHP).

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* A
Vagrant; four previous records

A first–winter landed on the Canal at Spurn at 0800hrs on 15th August, before flying off south towards the Warren (MJP *et al.*). It was re–found feeding in the saltmarsh, where it stayed for about 45 minutes, but then flew off north to Canal Scrape. After showing for a short while, it flew into the Walker Butts area and wasn’t relocated. This represents only the second record for Spurn and comes shortly after the first, a female present on 10th May 2008.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* A
Amber list: uncommon resident in north and west; scarce passage migrant. BBS 16/217

Favours fast–flowing watercourses, and appears to be increasing in the north–west, but there are also more reports from lowland areas where it increasingly breeds. Breeding in the mountains of the Palearctic, continental birds migrate south and may account for some of our coastal records. 2010 was a poor year for this species nationally after a period of substantial increase.

Typically, the highest counts during the early months came from sewage treatment works and included nine at Dowley Gap near Bradford in January, eight at Lemonroyd SW near Leeds in February and six at Treeton, Sheffield on 23rd January. More unusually, four remained in the uplands, in the Little Don Valley at Langsett on New Year’s Day. At the same time, small numbers were reported from coastal areas and along the River Hull valley, where this species is often absent for much of the breeding season. Scarborough town centre hosted three on 19th January, whilst one or two wintered at Filey and Flamborough.

Spring migrants were noted along the coast, with six singles south at Spurn between 21st March and 4th April, whilst seven occurred at Flamborough in March and April. In the uplands, the earliest to return appeared at Drebley Gorge, Wharfedale, on 13th March.

The breeding population appears to be healthy, with pairs occupying territories along most suitable stretches of water. Breeding was again reported from the centre of Sheffield, Rotherham and Halifax, where seven were present on 10th May. Elsewhere, particularly high densities were reported from the Marsden area, where 12 pairs held territories. However, there were some indications that the cold winter had impacted on the population in several areas and observers from Wharfedale, Bradford and Leeds reported fewer sightings. In Upper Wharfedale, up to 20% of the traditional breeding sites were unoccupied.

A small post–breeding dispersal was evident from June onwards, with reports of singles from non–breeding sites across the area in June and July, while six stayed at Worsbrough Res from 24th July until 30th August.

Typically, the main period of southerly movement took place from August. At Spurn the downward trend in the number of migrants continued, with 81 flying south between 8th August and 20th November. All counts involved single figures, with maxima of eight on 9th September and seven on 9th October. At Flamborough, the peak count related to five on 10th October. Inland movements were also evident with over 40 reported moving south over Oxenhope, Bradford during the same period and six flew south–west over Redmires Res on 18th September. Elsewhere there were seven at Fewston and Strid Woods, in Wharfedale, on 5th and 7th September and six at both Orgreave Lakes on 4th September and in the General Cemetery, Sheffield on 20th September.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 93/216: –43% (–5) 1995–2009, –33% (–12) 2009–10

The population in the county has been declining, although with some increase noted in North Yorkshire, and this appears now to be quite significant. The British race *M. a. yarrellii* is mostly resident, but some move south.

The largest concentrations in January and February were centred on lowland and urban areas inland, typically at communal roosts in retail parks and town centres, or in feeding flocks at sewage treatment works. Maxima during these early months included 250 at Horbury on 6th/7th January and again on 25th/27th February. At other locations, 100 roosted at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield on 8th January, 78 fed at Lemonroyd SW in February, 50 fed at Tadcaster SW on 28th February and 40 roosted at Retail World, Rotherham on 3rd February.

Spring migration started at Spurn in March and, in contrast to last year, it was described as good, with 231 flying south between 14th March and 30th April, including a new spring record of 57 on 27th March. Other high counts were 21 on 23rd and 20 on 28th March. Northward migration at Hummersea peaked at 54 on 22nd March.

Large flocks in early spring included 200 roosting on Parliament Street in York on 13th March, 100 at Nosterfield NR on 23rd March, 50 at Pugney’s CP on 9th/10th March, 40 at Folkton near Scarborough on 20th March, 30 at Halifax Bus Station on 29th March and 20 at Huggin Carr on 6th April.

Pairs returned to their upland breeding grounds from mid–March, with singles at Low Trenhouse and Tarn House, Malham on 16th March. By mid–April there were reports from breeding sites across the region and, although there is only limited quantified breeding data, many recorders considered local populations to be stable.

Autumn visible migration was most pronounced along the Pennine fringe, with record totals of 600 south at Oxenhope, 500 at Caldene Fields and 550 at Winterset Res. The latter total was based upon 32 morning visits in September and October, which produced peaks of 66 on 22nd September, 65 on 2nd October, 89 on 5th October and 114 on 7th October. This latter date also coincided with 43 heading south–west over Wharnccliffe Side, Sheffield. Elsewhere, a total of 192 headed over Stainburn Moor, with 31 over Marsden on seven dates between 30th September and 25th October.

On the coast, passage was evident from mid–August and described as average at Spurn, with 247 flying south between 18th August and 20th November, with high counts of 26 on 4th and 17 on 7th October. The contrast between the high inland counts and the much lower coastal tallies reflecting the predominantly south–westerly migration carried out by this species.

During this period large flocks were widely reported, with 100 roosting at Farnham GP on 30th September, at least 82 roosted at Sheffield Hallam University on 1st October, up to 70 were present at Nosterfield NR on 19th September, Flamborough hosted 57 on 28th September and 50 roosted at Snaygill Ings on 9th October. A single at Malham on 7th October represented the last report from the high uplands.

Winter maxima included 100 at Sheffield Northern General Hospital and 50 at both Lemonroyd SW and Seamer SW, all on 24th December. The year closed with 70 roosting in trees on Cambridge Street, Harrogate.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* **A**
Passage migrant

Breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in Africa.

The first appeared in a flock of 40 Pies at Folkton, Scarborough on 20th March. This was followed by two at both Grimston and Filey and a single at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 21st March. A single arrived at Spurn on 22nd March, heralding 18 bird/days there up until 11th May, with no more than three on any day and represented an average spring. The majority inland occurred after 25th March, with singles at St Aidan’s on this date and Shepley, near Huddersfield, and Lingham Lake on 26th March.

The main influx typically occurred in April, with maxima of seven at South Gare on 11th, five at Flasks Lake on both 10th and 22nd and five also at Wombwell Ings on 21st April. Other groups included four at both Scaling Dam and Winterset CP on 7th April and a similar number in residence at Orgreave Lakes from 18th–22nd and at Grimston on 24th April. Up to three were also present at Wombwell Ings, Flamborough and St Aidan’s on several days in April.

During the first half of May there were five bird/days at Flamborough and up to three noted on five dates at Swillington. At other locations, singles visited Horbury and Edderthorpe on 7th May, Cold Edge Dams, Halifax on 9th May and spring’s last at Scalby Lodge Pond on 14–15th May.

Although there were typically few confirmed autumn records, singles dropped in at Nosterfield NR on 1st September, Spurn on 23rd, Nosterfield NR again on 28th September, Cromer Point on 5th October and Sammy’s Point on 9th. The last was trapped and ringed at Spurn on 12th October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* **A**
Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, usually uncommon

Breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards through the coniferous zone, including North America.

Although there were only three records during the last two months of 2009, the onset of cold weather in North–west Europe prompted a small–scale arrival at the start of the year.

There were a handful of records during the first weeks of January, with a flock of 100 in Keighley on 16th January easily the biggest. Double–figure flocks included 15 in Shipley on 4th February, 20 at Midhope Res and 44 at Filey on 14th, 18 in Hull on 19th and ten at Bretton on 21st February. A flock of 14 stayed around Cottingham from 14th March until 5th April. Few remained in the west in mid April, so five at Ilkley on 16th April and four at Fulford on 17th April were noteworthy.

In the autumn, the first of a truly impressive influx appeared at Hebden Beck, Grassington on 12th October and preceded a single at Flamborough on 15th. The following day four appeared at Sammy’s Point, with singles at Beswick, Beverley, Long Nab and Spurn, followed by another at Filey on 17th. There were then daily records at Spurn from mid–October to early November, with a peak count of 50 on 4th November. Inland, three flew over Yeadon and five over Garforth on 20th October and along the coast, six overflowed Speeton Gap on 22nd. A significant arrival took place on 24th October, including two over Skelton, five at Lockwood Beck and 24 in Guisborough. Away from the north–east, flocks of 28 and 33 headed over High Batts NR, with 27 in Wakefield, ten in Harden and three on Wharnccliffe Chase also on 24th. In the last week of October, significant flocks included 100 at Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham, 100 in Halifax, 82 at Ben Rhydding, 70 in Keighley, 70 in Skipton, 60 at Crossflatts and flocks of 50 at Barden Scale, Elland and East Ardsley.

The scale of the invasion became apparent in November, with the exception of the extreme north–east, most significant flocks centred on the major conurbations west of the A1 Motorway. In the Cleveland area, November’s largest flocks included 300 in central Middlesbrough, 150 at Norton, 125 at Hemlington and 120 at Ingleby Barwick. Around Sheffield, flocks of up to 150 were regular throughout, with maxima of 240 at Ecclesall on 20th and 300 at High Storrs on 22nd November. Further north, in the Huddersfield/Halifax areas, 150 congregated in the Springwood Car Park, Huddersfield on 21st, whilst 49 were in Brighouse and 50 in Pellon on the same day and 50 flew north–west over Brighouse on 26th November. At the beginning of the month, Ilkley hosted 120, Keighley 100 and Bingley an additional 55. Numbers peaked around Harrogate at 200 on 14th November and there were 170 in Headingley, Leeds on 30th.

Many double and treble–figure sized flocks remained into December, with a best in the north–east of 374 at Ingleby Barwick. Flocks were generally smaller around Sheffield, but there were still 300 at Upperthorpe and 150 at Walkley on 16th December. In the Halifax area, 180 appeared at Skircot Green on 1st, Brighouse and Rastrick hosted 100 on 3rd and, in the Bradford area, there were 100 in Manningham, 71 at Bingley and 50 in Allerton. Around Leeds, the largest numbers included 125 comprising of three flocks in Gledhow on 3rd and 250 in Beeston on 11th December. To the east of the city, the Little Preston/Swillington area hosted 220 on 18th December.

The extent to which flocks quickly move through the UK was indicated by a colour–ringing scheme conducted in Aberdeen. A single trapped at Nelifield, Aberdeen on 28th November, appeared in Morningside, Edinburgh on 9th December, before being part of the aforementioned Swillington flock on 18th December. The same individual, or another trapped on the same day at Nelifield, then took up residence in a Cudworth garden on 30th/31st December.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **A**
Uncommon resident on higher ground in north and west. BBS 3/216

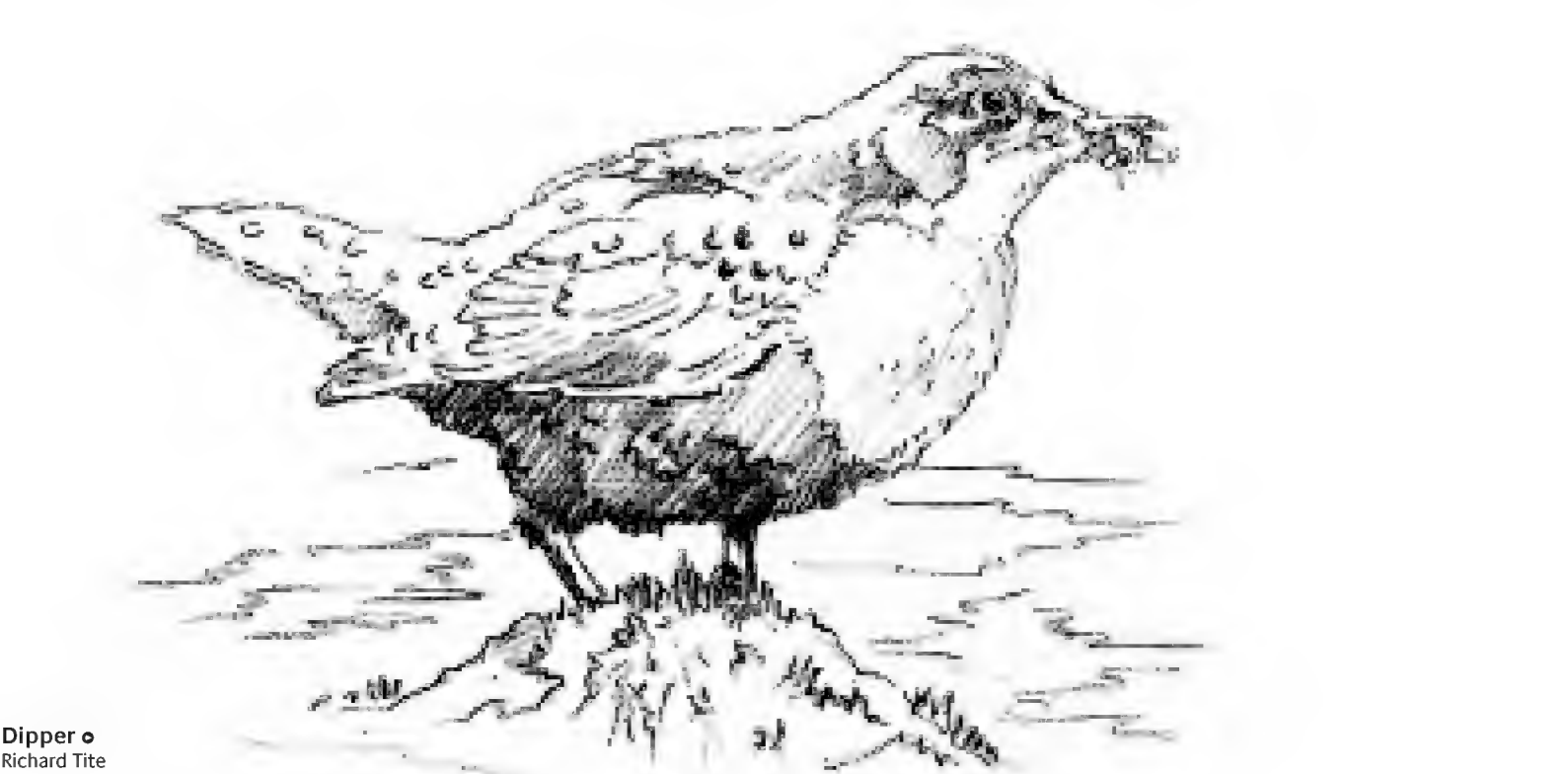
Nationally stable population of the race *gularis*, but only found in three BBS squares compared to six in 2009.

In the Cleveland area a single appeared in the Leven Valley in early March, but there were no reports of breeding, while further south, Glaisdale hosted a single on 2nd April. On the southern edge of the North York Moors, two pairs bred on the upper section of the River Derwent, the first near Scarborough and the second at Ellerburn.

In the Southern Pennines, 102 were ringed around Sheffield, along with eight broods containing 25 young, two of which were at Stocksbridge and the other six along minor rivers south of the town. Near Huddersfield, four pairs were recorded along the Little Don Valley, with additional pairs at Oxspring and Thunderbridge. In addition, four adults were on the river between Holmbridge and Holmfirth at the end of March and a pair accompanied their two young at Blake Lee, Marsden on 30th May. The River Calder and its tributaries also proved to be favoured, with breeding confirmed at many sites, including four pairs between Barkisland/Bowers Mill and West Vale.

A single at the former breeding site at Pool Paper Mill on the River Wharfe on 3rd February represented the only record, but further upstream, pairs held territory from Otley through to the river's source at Oughtershaw, where young were seen in late April and early July. A maximum of seven was present along the section of river running through Strid Wood.

Adults were also noted on the River Washburn at Leathley, the River Nidd as far down as the Nidd Gorge, Knaresborough, the River Ure downstream to Ripon and the Rivers Laver and Skell also around Ripon.



Dipper
Richard Tite

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* **A**
Abundant resident; passage migrant in small numbers
BBS 171/216: +31% (+8) 1995–2009, –9% (–5) 2009–10

The weather conditions were again not conducive to a recovery of numbers lost in the harsh conditions of 2009. The result of the January freeze was reflected in the breeding season. In the north-east, 13 territories were counted along Guisborough Branch Walkway between Pinchinthorpe and Upsall, down from 17 on the same stretch the previous year. A total of 14 singing males held territory at Spurn, as compared with 20 pairs in 2009, and the breeding season productivity was also considered poor.

Indications of population densities elsewhere came from Tophill Low, where at least 30 pairs bred, including one pair successfully in a nestbox. Elsewhere, in the Sheffield area, there were 35 singing in Graves Park on 6th May and 34 in Wharncliffe Woods on 4th June, with 43 holding territory in Gledhow Valley Woods. Some areas of Huddersfield showed an increase in the number of singing males, whilst there were 35 territories at Old Moor and Bolton Ings, 47 singing at Swillington Ings and 51 pairs bred at Fairburn, compared with 50 in 2009. A wetland survey along a stretch of the River Ouse located 45 males on 4th June. Perhaps unsurprisingly, locations at higher altitudes seemed to experience substantial declines and the number of territories at Malham Tarn further declined on 2009 to only five pairs.

There was limited coastal passage reported, with 40 trapped and ringed at Filey between 26th June and 14th October and 25 at Spurn on 15th November. In December's freeze, a nestbox at Healey Mills held 22 roosting individuals.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: abundant resident; passage migrant
BBS 146/216: +13% (+18) 1995–2009, +29% (+9) 2009–10

The very sedentary British race *occidentalis* showed a good if rather unexpected recovery in the county this year. Nominate *modularis* from Fennoscandia and north-east Europe occur on migration on the coast. Probably under-recorded in BBS surveys.

Inland, the most notable spring count related to 35 in Thrybergh Park on 9th March, whilst there were 45 at Spurn on 9th April.

Indications of population density included 14 pairs at Spurn, compared with 23 pairs the previous year. Fairburn hosted 25 breeding pairs, compared with 18 pairs in 2009, and Blacktoft Sands held 16 pairs.

Clear evidence of autumn passage resulted from a 'vis mig' record of 15 heading west over Hunmanby Gap on 20th September. Several days later, there were 30 on South Gare on 27th and 25 at Flamborough on 28th September. An additional 11 headed south-west over Hunmanby Gap on 7th October. Passage along the coast peaked in October and an impressive 302 were logged at Spurn on 9th, including 103 ringed. Thereafter, numbers remained relatively high at Spurn, with in excess of 100 present over the next five days. Elsewhere, Flamborough hosted 48 on 9th October, 31 on 11th and 28 on 13th.

In the final two months, the only count of note related to 20 at Thrybergh Park on 1st November.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* **A**
Common to abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 161/216: +54% (+24) 1995–2009, –23% (–9) 2009–10

The resident and largely sedentary British race *melophilus* has been increasing in the county since 2002. Falls of the nominate race *rubecula* occur on the east coast, particularly in October, and these are probably of Fennoscandian and south Baltic origin. They pass through to wintering grounds further south. The breeding population has recently been adversely affected by harsh conditions.

There was no obvious spring influx at Spurn, but a few Continental migrants were present from late March to mid-April.

In the east, at least 30 pairs bred at Tophill Low. Sample counts at other sites included 22 singing males at both Gledhow Valley Woods and around Methley, which represents a 25% decline on 2008 at Gledhow. Indications of the strength of the population at other sites near Sheffield were 21 singing at Hall Wood, High Green on 11th April and 26 at Wharncliffe Wood on 4th June. A total of 42 pairs bred at Fairburn and six pairs bred on the Malham Tarn Estate.

It was a bumper autumn along the coast, with falls taking place along the full length from late September to mid October. The first indication of an arrival came with 55 at Spurn on 26th September. The following day there were 210 at Filey, 100 at Buckton, which included a total of 26 ringed, one of which was a Swedish control. Even bigger numbers were in the Spurn area, where 1000 were logged on both 27th/28th. On the latter date there were 200 at Filey, 800 at Flamborough, 100 at Buckton and 40 at Atwick. After 190 at Spurn on 2nd October, numbers ebbed, until another pulse of arrivals at the end of the first week. Spurn hosted 100 on 8th October and the following day there were 55 at Filey and 640 at Flamborough. A substantial arrival was witnessed on 10th October, with 150 at Hunt Cliff, 93 at Filey, 80 at Buckton, 710 at Flamborough, 60 at Atwick, 50 at Ulrome and furthest south, 600 at Spurn. Numbers began to decline after 11th October, which produced totals of 50 at South Gare, 22 at Filey and 350 at Spurn. During November, a smaller scale arrival of 32 took place at Spurn on 19th.

The ringing effort at Spurn produced record numbers, with 1167 trapped, while a further 547 were ringed in the Filey/Flamborough area.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* **A** 1,1,2,2,4
Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant
*** Running totals refer only to migrants**

A rapidly decreasing summer visitor with the vast majority of the breeding population concentrated in the south-east of England. Most winter in Africa, south of the Sahara.

A relatively showy migrant appeared in the corner of Thornwick Caravan Park, Flamborough on 24th April (EP & NP *et al.*) and another showed briefly at the Warren, Spurn before 'bouncing' a mist net the same day (AAH). Flamborough's second of spring gave a short burst of song near Old Fall Steps on 29th April (PC). A single then sang and gave sporadic views near the Potato Fields at Spurn on 6th, 8th and 9th May (PWr *et al.*).

* Only one singing male held territory at Will Pits on Thorne Moors and was heard on 5th, 12th and 14th May.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* **A** 2,6,8,2,7
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species

The species breeds across the Palaearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyanecula* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic States and this form has bred in the county, most recently at Thorne Moors.

A female-type showed early morning at post 51 at Spurn on 22nd May (MBre *et al.*). The next, an adult male, sang at Kew Villa, Kilnsea in the early morning on 24th May (RJB: PCo). A first-year male or old female then showed well at the Point at Spurn on 3rd June (GED *et al.*).

During the autumn, one was discovered in the saltmarsh off the Canal at Spurn on 4th September (NP). A first-winter at Hunmanby Gap on 27th September represented an excellent garden tick (KC). The last two appeared on the Holderness coast, with the first in a ditch along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 8th October (JG) and a first-winter male at Holmpton on 23rd October (GJS).

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* **A** 0,2,0,3,1
Vagrant; six previous records

A small population breeds in north-east Finland, but the main breeding range consists of the temperate forests from Russia east to Kamchatka. It winters in south-east Asia through to northern Thailand.

A first-winter, probably a male, was discovered at Hunt Cliff in the north-east of the county on 10th October (DAM *et al.*). It remained faithful to a narrow strip of hawthorn throughout the day and was trapped and ringed late morning. The same finder discovered the county's first in September 2001.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant; rare winter visitor
Breeds from North Africa to southern Scandinavia, locally in SE England, typically on derelict sites or in town centres, wintering in the south of its range.

A single remained in residence around the Fog Station at Flamborough during January and February. Other singles present during the first two months were at Fountains Abbey on 24th January, Filey from 27th February to 5th March and Spurn on 27th February.

In March, the first migrants were noted at Rombalds Moor on 19th and in a garden in Hornsea on 22nd–23rd. Unsurprisingly the last week of March proved more productive, with singles at Flamborough Head on 24th–25th, Hatfield Moors on 24th, at Spurn from 25th–27th, Addingham on 25th, Sandy Beaches in Kilnsea on 26th, Stainburn Moor on 27th and at Flamborough Head on 31st.

At Spurn, up to three were present between 1st April and 16th May, with five on 4th April. A single appeared at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 3rd April, with others the same day at Kilnsea and Flamborough, the latter staying until 4th. Well inland, singles appeared at Digley near Huddersfield on 4th April and between Deer Hill and Blackmoorfoot on 10th. More expected, singles graced Kilnsea also on 10th and again on 14th, followed by one at Flamborough on 18th, three the following day and singles at the same location on 24th and 27th April. In May, singles were at Filey on 10th, Orgreave Tip on 12th, Flamborough Head on 13th, Nosterfield NR on 16th and Flamborough again on 23rd.

The sole June record related to a single at Spurn on 24th. There is often a pulse of records during July and this year proved no exception, starting with a single at Flamborough on 3rd and one well inland at Cold Edge, Halifax on 23rd. Several appeared in the last week, with one at Spurn on 24th–25th July, a single at Soil Hill and two at Thornton Moor, Bradford on 25th and two at Spurn, a single at Filey and one remaining at Thornton Moor on 28th.

In August, singles were present at Glovershaw and Spurn on 2nd, Addingham Moorside on 3rd, Spurn on 6th, Sandy Beaches, Kilnsea the next day and, finally, again at Spurn on 13th. An unusual record related to an adult female and a juvenile in residence at Langsett from 4th September through until 7th October. More expected, Flamborough hosted singles on 7th and 28th September, with two at Spurn on the latter date.

A single lingered on derelict land at Melrose Street, Scarborough from 6th October until 12th November. Four at Spurn on 8th October preceded two at Grimston the next day, when a single was also at Stone Creek, with the latter still present on 11th. Other singles were recorded at Flamborough Head on 10th October, Scarborough on 11th, Filey the next day and Isle of Skye Quarry, near Huddersfield, on 13th. Spurn hosted three on 15th October, before singles at both Holmfirth and Spurn on 17th and, finally, at Spurn on 31st.

In November, two were present at Flamborough Head on 1st, with one remaining the next day and, further south, two were in residence from the start of the month at Spurn until 19th, with three present on 20th. Singles appeared at Tickhill on 3rd–4th November, Thrybergh CP on 12th, Cold Edge Dams on 23rd, with the last two of the year at Flamborough and Lakeside, Doncaster on 27th.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 10/216
A locally declining trans-Saharan migrant.

Early migrants appeared at Spurn on 7th April followed by males at Farnham GP and Haverah Park the next day and singles at Agden Res and Wharnccliffe Chase on 10th. Spring coastal passage was modest, with one or two

noted at Spurn from 7th April until 20th May, with three on 24th April. At Flamborough Head, up to four present in the last week of April, with three on 6th May and singles on 7th/8th May. Filey hosted singles on 25th April, 2nd and 8th May.

The North Yorkshire Moors hold significant numbers, with pairs present in the breeding season at Low North Camp, Penny Howe, Scar Wood, Troutsdale, at least five pairs in Langdale Forest and six pairs in the Forge Valley and Hackness areas. Records over recent years suggest that the population in the Scarborough recording area, which includes the aforementioned sites and many of the woodlands on the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors, is between 30–50 pairs. Further west, there were two singing males at Yearsley Moor and a pair at Byland Abbey.



Redstart •
Ray Scally

Massively underwatched, the value of the dry wooded valleys on the Yorkshire Wolds was evidenced by pairs at Kirby Underdale, Millington Grange Estate and Wharram Percy, three singing males near Hanging Grimston and a juvenile in breeding habitat at Millington Pastures on 7th July. In addition, a singing male was in Mining Dale on 17th June and a pair was in suitable breeding habitat at Well Dale on 19th June, with both sites on the Warter Estate.

In the South Pennines, the Sheffield area remained a stronghold, with singing males at Agden Rocher (two), Dale Dike Res, Graves Park, High Bradfield, Limb Valley, Little Don Valley (five), Rocher Wood, Smallfield, Strines (two), Upper Thornseat (three), Wharnccliffe Chase (two) and Wharnccliffe Wood. West of Barnsley, additional males also held territory at Broomhead Wood, Fox Clough and Whitwell Moor. There was no proof of breeding around Huddersfield, where the population is clearly in decline, although singing males were present at Holme Styes, Langsett, Meltham and Ramsden Res. Similarly, there was no proof that pairs bred near Halifax, with singing males noted at Broadhead Clough and Hardcastle Crag and a pair at Scout Wood at Mytholmroyd. Immediately to the north within the Bradford recording area, there were up to six males in Strid Wood during May, but confirmed breeding only obtained from Eilers Wood, John O'Gaunts Res and Low Snowden. North of Leeds, a male was singing on several dates at Lindley Wood Res, with a pair present at Riffa Lane, Leathley on 18th May. Records were received from just over 30 locations within the Wharfedale Naturalists Recording Area. This is in line with previous years, although there appeared to be better numbers in the Washburn Valley. Favoured areas within Upper Wharfedale included between Yockenthwaite and Cray, where there were seven singing males,

and both Wood Nook near Threshfield and Grass Wood, each holding six singing males. During the summer, reported widely from the Harrogate area, whilst five pairs bred at Malham.

In contrast to the poor spring, autumn falls brought impressive numbers, especially during two spells in September. Spurn logged 51 on 6th September, followed by 73 at Spurn, 67 at Flamborough and 13 at Filey on 7th and 55 at Spurn, 28 at Flamborough, 25 at Castle Hill, Scarborough and 20 at Filey on 8th. The next wave came at the end of the month between 26th and 30th, with 86 at Spurn, 55 at Flamborough and 35 at Filey on 27th, 73 at Spurn and 39 at Flamborough on 28th and 50 at Spurn on 30th September. The third arrival occurred in the first week of October, when 14 were at Flamborough Head on 2nd, 13 there on 4th, 31 at Spurn on 9th and 14 at Flamborough the next day. The last migrant appeared at Spurn on 24th October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 3/216

A nationally declining migrant that winters in Africa. Recent evidence suggests a decrease in its breeding range in the Pennines. There was an increase in reporting nationally this year again.

The first appeared at Spurn on 18th April, followed by singles at Filey Dams on 20th, Beal Carrs on 22nd and at Joan Croft Lane, near Barnby Dun on 23rd. The main period of passage then occurred between 25th April and mid May, by which time breeding pairs were back on territory.

On the North Yorkshire Moors, a pair on Easington High Moor reared two young, with an unpaired male nearby. In the breeding season there were records from seven 1km squares on Fylingdales Moor, illustrating how underwatched neighbouring areas are.

West of Sheffield/Barnsley, there were pairs/singing males at Blacka Moor (two), Broomhead Moor, Burbage, Hurkling Stones, Little Don Valley, Upper Ewden Beck and White Edge. Near Huddersfield, a pair bred at Deer Hill and there were four males on territory around Wessenden/Blakeley, while around Halifax, singing males were noted at Cold Edge, Ogden GC, Ovenden Moor and Withens Clough (two pairs). Breeding success considered better than average near Bradford, with fledged juveniles at Glovershaw, Haworth and Whetstone Gate and a pair present at Barden Moor. Pairs bred on Dallowgill Moor and Steelhouse Gill, near Harrogate.

Autumn passage began in mid–August, with the first coastal single at Spurn on 10th. Up to four were present at several of the main sites through until October, with three notable peaks. A significant fall on 7th September produced 63 at Flamborough, 29 at Spurn, 28 at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 20 at Long Nab and ten at both Filey and Buckton. The next day there were 73 at Flamborough, 39 at Spurn and 30 at Buckton. Thereafter, only Spurn held double figure counts, with 15 present on 27th September and 11 on 2nd October.

The last reports were at Sammy’s Point on 11th October and a single at Redmires Res the next day.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident and uncommon autumn/winter visitor. BBS 6/216

The race found in Britain, *hibernans*, had been increasing nationally at a rapid rate (+170% from 1994–2008) but it was badly affected by the harsh winter of 2008/2009, after a 31% decrease last year, a further 50% decrease was noted this year in England. Continental passage birds can occur on the coast.

Regularly recorded at Spurn early on, with seven on 27th February and nine on 3rd March.

In contrast to many areas further west, the cold winter seemed to have made little difference to the population in the east. Pairs were present in southern Cleveland at Easington High Moor, Eston Moor, Codhill Heights, Scaling Dam, Margrove Ponds, Boulby, Skinningrove, Hunt Cliff, Hazel Grove, Dabholme Gut, the Ore Terminal and the dunes near Coatham Sands; a minimum of 42 juveniles represented a healthy return. North of Scarborough, five pairs bred on Fylingdales Moor, two pairs in Langdale Forest and another at Scalby Nab, while three pairs bred at Filey and a single at Flamborough.

However, dramatic declines in breeding numbers were witnessed further west. Only 18 pairs bred near Huddersfield, compared with 32 pairs the previous year. The breeding population near Halifax has halved over the last three years, with only three pairs proved to breed. In Upper Wharfedale, two colder winters resulted in a dramatic fall from 33 pairs in 2007 to only eight this year.

Coastal passage was substantially down on previous years, with seven at Hummersea and six at both Flamborough and Spurn on 28th September and six at South Gare on 11th October the highlights.

During the harsh weather, a male took advantage of street lighting to forage at night on roadside grassland at Saltburn in late December.

Individuals showing features of the Continental subspecies *rubicola* were recorded at Spurn from 24th March until 16th April, with another at Flamborough Head on 2nd June.

SIBERIAN STONECHAT *Saxicola maurus* **A**

0,3,2,0,1

Rare coastal migrant; 50 previous records

Breeds widely across northern Asia from Urals through Mongolia and northern China and it winters from the northern Indian subcontinent to southern China and SE Asia.

A first–winter was located on Carr Naze, Filey during the late afternoon on 10th October (SC *et al.*). This represents the first record since this form was split into a full species by the BOU.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant

BBS 52/216: –2% (+7) 1995–2009, +48% (+35) 2009–10

Widespread in Europe and as far north as Greenland, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. Has previously declined markedly in its breeding range on the Pennines, although a significant national increase was noted this year.

A very early migrant appeared at Newby Cote, near Ingleton on 2nd March, followed by further singles at Otley Chevin, on 8th, Howden Res the next day, Dean Head Res on 11th, Little Studley on 15th and Conistone Moor, Hawksworth Moor and Pugney’s CP on 17th.

Inland passage began early in March, although the main movement occurred in April. Ten were at Blackmoorfoot on 1st April, with 15 at Brown’s Edge Lane, Huddersfield the next day, 30 at Deanhead Clough on 3rd, followed by ten at Deer Hill on 4th and another ten at Digley the following day. On 6th, 11 were at Harden, with 17 at Hebden Beck on 9th and 18 at Grayrigg Pike and Dillicar the next day. In the latter half of April there were 24 at Denholme on 20th, 12 at Scar House Res on 24th and ten at Soil Hill on 26th. May opened with parties of ten at both Peat Pits and Rocher Head on 1st and the last notable inland count related to 23 at Thornton Moor on 5th May.

After 15 at Hummersea on 26th March, coastal passage began in earnest during April, peaking towards the end of the month. The highest counts at the main migration watchpoints were 27 at Hunt Cliff on 24th April, 49 in the Filey area the next day, 57 at Flamborough on 28th and 70 at Spurn on 29th.

Few breeding records received from the North Yorkshire Moors, with a pair confirmed at Fylingdales Moor and records during the breeding season from suitable habitat at Easington High Moor and Langdale Forest. In the south–west, pairs probably bred near Blacka Moor, Burbage and Redmires Res west of Sheffield and two pairs held territory in the upper Little Don Valley. Near Huddersfield, a recently fledged juvenile was picked up dead near Pule Hill in early July and pairs bred at Baitings and Langfield Edge, west of Halifax. The bulk of the population appears to be centred in the Yorkshire Dales, with numerous reports of breeding within the northern reaches of Upper Wharfedale.

Two early passage individuals graced Spurn on 18th and 28th July. The main autumn passage then began in mid August, with singles at Spurn on 13th and Filey on 18th. There were three main pulses of migrants, the first taking place in early September, starting with 15 at Buckton on 6th. The following day there were ten at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 25 at Buckton, 44 at Flamborough and 56 at Spurn. Numbers at Buckton peaked at 40 on 8th, presumably as migrants filtered off the Outer Head at Flamborough, while further north, 14 were along the coast between Castle Hill, Scarborough and Long Nab. The second wave occurred mid–month, with 108 in the Spurn/Easington area on 13th September, but ten at Filey represented the highest other count along the coast. Spurn again took the lion’s share at the end of September, with 85 on 27th dropping to 50 the next day, when ten were at South Gare. Unusually, one appeared on a house roof in a residential street in Driffield on 26th September. Passage tailed off during October, with best counts of 13 at Flamborough on 2nd and 17 at Spurn on 10th. The autumn total of 694 bird/days at Spurn represented the highest there since 1998.

The latest records all referred to individuals lingering inland, with one at Soil Hill near Bradford on 22nd October, a single on Hatfield Moors on 6th November and a very late single at Cold Edge Dams, Ovenden Moor on 23rd November.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti* **A**

0,1,0,0,1

Vagrant; nine previous records

This species breeds from Morocco east to Central Asia, with autumn records most likely to be accounted for by reverse migration of eastern birds.

A first–winter male appeared in fields north of the Coastguard Hut at Long Nab during the afternoon of 19th November (NWA: JCI: AFo). It moved north to Hundale Point, where it remained until dusk, but could not be relocated the next day. Incredibly, this is the third to turn up on this 2km stretch of coastline since the late 1980s, while the last near Spurn stayed at Easington from 16th–19th April 1962.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 7/216
Breeds in upland Britain, but principally a passage migrant from northern Africa/southern Europe.

The first had presumably been displaced from wintering elsewhere in Europe and appeared at Stainburn on 28th February. Almost a month later, migrants started to turn up inland, with one at Whetstone Gate, Chevin on 21st March. Two were at Stainburn on 23rd, with one at Trough Lane, Bradford the next day. There was only one further March record, at Agill on 31st. A widespread inland passage continued throughout April, with up to four at many locations. Five were recorded from Cheesegate Nab on 9th April, with five at Hepworth the next day. Greenfield Road, near Huddersfield, held five between 21st and 23rd, with five at Stainton simultaneously on 22nd. Other parties of five were recorded at Hartcliff Hill, Huddersfield on 24th and Colsterdale on 27th April.

Apart from a single at Seamer Carr on 3rd April, the first true coastal migrant arrived at Spurn on 10th. The main passage, presumably relating to individuals heading for Scandinavia, occurred between mid April and mid May. Spurn recorded up to two daily during this period, notching up a total of 30 bird/days, three times that of the previous year. The largest counts referred to seven at Reighton Sands on 27th April, with four there the next day and another three nearby at Filey. Flamborough's best was four on 24th April, with spring's last a female at Buckton on 22nd May.

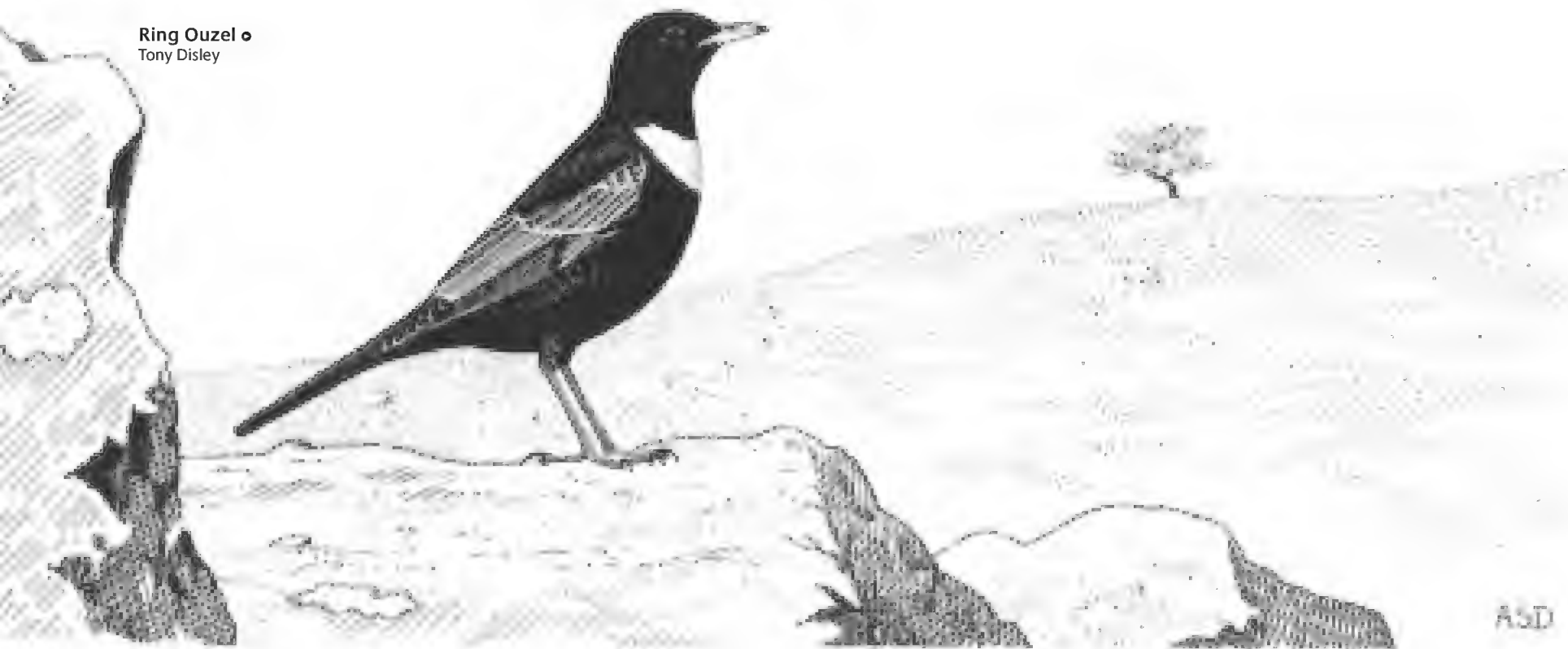
In the South Pennines, pairs bred at Abbey Brook and Burbage Rocks near Sheffield, with a pair present during the summer at Howden Res. Further north, four males held territory in the upper Little Don Valley, with two males similarly at Sugden Clough, two on Broomhead Moor and a single at Mickleden Beck and a pair bred at Lower Gorple Quarry, near Halifax.

Four pairs bred in the northern reaches of Upper Wharfedale/Harrogate and reports further north included nine in the Arkengarthdale area at the end of May and another in July at Pen-y-Ghent.

Coastal passage was substantial, after a series of below par autumns. Two at Spurn on 21st September heralded a superb spell, with 180 bird/days at the observatory contrasting with a paltry 16 in 2009. The main arrival on 27th September numbered an impressive 85, including 35 in the Easington area, eclipsed by 50 within the Spurn observatory recording area. The following day, many had moved on, leaving 15 at Spurn, with 11 further north at Buckton. Another influx took place in the second week of October, when seven were at Filey and 14 at Spurn on 8th, followed by 25 at Spurn the next day. An influx of thrushes at Flamborough on 10th October included 21.

Higher than usual numbers were also noted at inland sites and this included 20 heading west through Redmires Res on 12th September, in parties of five, seven and eight.

Following such an impressive autumn migration, it was hardly surprising that several remained into November. On the first day of the month, a single lingered at Spurn, followed by four inland at Stainburn on 6th. Thereafter, singles were recorded at Oxenhope on 10th and at Spurn on 15th November.



Ring Ouzel o
Tony Disley

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **A**
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 186/216: +56% (+23) 1995–2009, –16% (o) 2009–10
During cold weather early on, 80 were at Old Moor on 3rd January, 96 were present at Spurn during the month and Kelk hosted 50 on 30th. On the coast, there was no obvious spring passage at Spurn and a peak at Flamborough of 68 on 21st March.

The breeding population increased slightly in the Bradford area, where a very early male sang on 7th December, and at Fairburn Ings, where 43 pairs represented an increase on 27 pairs the previous year. However, the population at Swillington Ings and immediate surroundings appeared to be back to the long-term average after recent increases.

Coastal passage occurred largely in October and November, though notable counts were made in September, with 72 at Spurn on 27th, and 145 the next day at Flamborough. A large influx began on 8th October, when 50 were at Filey. Two days later, counts of 50 were made at Castle Hill, Scarborough and at Buckton, with 270 on Flamborough. Many had moved on by 10th, though Ravenscar hosted 100 on that date. Another arrival took place on 12th, with 250 at Filey and 560 at Spurn, increasing to 810 the next day and peaking at 960 on 16th. The next large counts were made in November, with 253 at Sunk Island and 460 at Spurn on 7th, followed by 570 there the next day, when 130 dropped in at Flamborough.

Large numbers were recorded at inland sites in the late autumn, with 53 at Firsby Res and 72 at Ulley CP on 10th November. Other November records included 100 at Bradley Hall Farm, Huddersfield on 14th, 50 at Rothwell on 20th and 82 at Thrybergh CP on 29th.

Towards the end of the year, harsh weather undoubtedly concentrated individuals into areas with good feeding, such as orchards, berry-laden hedgerows and large gardens. Sixty were on Silverwood Pit Top on 9th December, with 54 at Thorpe Marsh on 17th, 51 at Firsby Res the next day and 70 in Skipsea on 21st.

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis* **A** 0,1,0,0,1
Vagrant; five previous records

Breeds in central Asia and winters from Iran eastwards into Burma.

A female was a superb discovery at Newholm, near Whitby, on 10th January, pleasing many people by staying until 7th March (DC *et al.*). A much-photographed individual, it spent much of the time feeding in village gardens, particularly where apples and other food had been put out. This represented the first since the first-winter female at Buckton in March 2007.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **A**
Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. BBS 1/216
An entirely migratory species that breeds in Scandinavia and northern Europe east to Siberia, often passing through the county to winter further south and west. Presumably late migrants were recorded in the BBS square.

The year started with 800 at Sunk Island on 1st January, while Spurn held 800 on 4th January. A total of 560 moved over Flamborough Head on 23rd January, with an impressive 2000 in fields by Rudde Howe Moor on 28th. On 30th, 460 remained at Sunk Island and 1000 flew over North Cave Wetlands. Fewer large counts were recorded in February, though 500 were at High Batts NR on 3rd, 450 at Cayton Carrs on 16th and 1500 gathered at Staveley NR on 19th.

In the last week of April, 30 remained at Malham Tarn and 40 in Upper Wharfedale on 24th, with singles at Buckton and Sunk Island and 17 at Roper Hill, Sheffield the following day, two were at Cheesegate Nab, Huddersfield on 26th, with three at RAF Fylingdales and a single at Spurn on 30th. May opened with a single at Filey on 1st. However, much more unexpected were singles at Buckton on 5th June, Wakefield on 22nd June and, presumably a summering individual, at Langdale Forest on 24th July.

The first of autumn made landfall at Spurn on 14th and 17th August. No further migrants appeared until one at Yeadon Tarn on 1st September, followed by another at Flamborough on 6th September and a single at Castle Hill, Scarborough and four at Spurn the next day.

The only notable coastal count related to 3476 at Flamborough on 21st October. Passage through inland sites was impressive and resulted in one of the best autumns on record, with a movement numbering tens of thousands taking place between 20th and 28th October. This wasn't witnessed on the coast, presumably because immigrants crossed the coast in the dark and had moved far inland by dawn. On 20th October the most significant totals were 6705 north at Oxenhope, 6500 west over Skipton SW, 4000 at Old Moor, 2660 west at Winterset, counts of 1600 at Addingham Moorside and Wingate Nick and 1068 at Firsby Res. The following day, 3406 flew north over Oxenhope and 1750 headed over Fairburn Ings on 23rd. Another impressive

movement took place on 24th and totals included 5805 south at Caldene Fields, 5185 north over Oxenhope, 3500 over Snaygill Ings, 2885 at Winterset, 2752 at Harden, 2500 at Old Moor, 2100 at Fairburn Ings, 1400 at Farnham GP, 1200 over Wharnccliffe Chase, Ulley CP and Swillington Ings, 1030 at Helperthorpe and 963 at Sunk Island. Further four-figure counts before the month end included 2500 at Stean and 1287 north over Oxenhope on 25th and 1500 at Langsett Moor on 28th October. Further arrivals took place along the coast in November, with 2107 at Flamborough Head on 6th the highest. Towards the end of the year, 400 flew over Blacktoft Sands on 24th November and 800 appeared at Old Moor on 19th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 128/216: +56% (+22) 1995–2009, +8% (–4) 2009–10

A resident whose population has been recovering since the mid-90s after earlier decreases; numbers are augmented in winter by migrants from northern Europe. A slight recovery seen this year after the setbacks of 2008 and 2009.

A quiet start to the year, with 17 at Spurn and 15 at Old Moor on 1st January the only counts of note. Most sites suggested the breeding season was favourable, with more records from the Huddersfield area, including 13 pairs in Marsden. Population densities elsewhere included 12 pairs at Fairburn Ings and 24 territories at Winterset.

It was an exceptional autumn passage, with several large arrivals within the excellent fall conditions. The first notable count related to 56 at Spurn on 26th September. Numbers increased substantially the next day, with an impressive 630 at Spurn, 430 at Flamborough, 30 at Buckton and 65 at Filey. Spurn still hosted 450 on 28th, whilst there were also 555 at Flamborough, 40 at Buckton, 160 at Filey and 60 at Castle Hill, Scarborough the same day.

After several days of lower numbers, a second big movement occurred on 8th October, 330 at Filey proved to be the highest count there of the autumn, with 100 also at Castle Hill, Scarborough and 270 at Spurn. The next day, 150 were at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 30 at Buckton, 550 at Flamborough Head, 700 at Spurn and, along the Humber, 80 at Sunk Island. On 10th October 100 made landfall at Ravenscar, 40 at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 650 at Flamborough, 750 at Spurn and 571 at Sunk Island. Over the next few days, the highest counts included 611 at Sunk Island on 11th, 430 at Spurn the next day and 350 at Flamborough Head on 13th.

Inland birders did not miss out on the impressive autumn movement, though numbers were predictably more modest. A total of 20 over Staveley NR on 4th October preceded 50, including a flock of 28, at the same site the next day. Ripon Loop hosted 40 on 7th October, while 12 passed through Winterset on 9th, including a flock of ten heading west. On 10th, 16 were recorded at Redmires Res, including a group of nine grounded by foggy conditions and an impressive 170 headed south over Old Moor, setting a new Barnsley record. Old Moor then recorded 60 on 6th November, followed by 20 there on 28th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* **A**
Red list: common passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from Iceland to eastern Siberia, but birds wintering in the county are mostly of Fennoscandian origin. Numbers were poor in the first winter period, perhaps as a result of harsh weather and snow during January forcing flocks further south-west.

The only notable aggregations in the first three months referred to 120 at Sunk Island on 2nd January, 150 at Potteric Carr on 14th February and 120 at Gleadless Valley LNR on 7th March. Numbers along the coast in early spring were higher, with a best of 531 at Flamborough on 21st March. Inland, Hazelhead, near Barnsley, hosted a flock of 300 at the end of March. By April most had left, though a few stragglers held on until May, including singles at Buckton on 1st, Spurn on 6th, Flamborough on 16th and Filey on 30th.

Three months later, the first migrant returned to Castle Hill, Scarborough on 7th September. Two weeks elapsed before the next, when two were at Spurn and a single at Cudworth on 21st, followed by a further single at Anglers CP and Winterset the next day. The first appreciable influx took place on 27th September, with 1944 at Sunk Island, 1200 at Spurn and 369 at Flamborough.

The next pulse of arrivals occurred between 8th and 12th October. On the former date, 3060 moved through Sunk Island and 2040 at Spurn. However, activity increased further on 9th October, with 7430 at Sunk Island and 3450 through Spurn, along with 950 at Flamborough, 550 at Castle Hill, Scarborough and 500 at Ravenscar. Many also penetrated far inland on 9th, with an impressive 3912 south at Stainburn Moor, 1000 south at Swillington Ings, 950 through Potteric Carr and 353 west at Winterset. Large numbers continued to arrive on 10th, with 2600 at Spurn, 2080 at Flamborough and 1420 at Sunk Island. Inland counts were equally large on the same day, with 2565 south and 328 heading north over Oxenhope, 2700 through Caldene Fields, 2000 at Beswick

and 806 tracking north over Stainburn Moor. After a one-day lull, passage picked up on 12th October, with 3000 arriving at Spurn, with a further pulse of 1420 there on 15th, but thereafter, autumn passage along the coast decreased. There were still large numbers featuring inland, with highs of 1000 at Littlethorpe on 12th November, 800 at Horbury Wyke on 17th December, 800 at Old Moor the next day and 700 at Spurn on 27th December.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant
BBS 83/216: –47% (–30) 1995–2009, –21% (–4) 2009–10

It has declined rapidly nationally and locally from 1994–1998 and again since 2000. After an apparent reversal in 2007, the worryingly downward trend has continued since 2008.

Territorial males were singing widely by mid-January, with an exceptionally early individual singing in Headingley on 14th November. Most breeding populations seemed static, with up to 15 pairs in the Worsborough Valley similar to last year. A decline was apparent in some areas, with only four territories located at Winterset and six pairs in the Marsden area, only half that of the previous year. In spite of this, some impressive post-breeding counts were made, perhaps reflecting a productive season.

Farnham GP hosted 24 on 18th July, with additional post-breeding flocks of 38 at Cookridge on 3rd August, 65 at White Lee Moor on 10th, 50 at Askwith on 14th, 30 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 15th, 35 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 16th, 38 at Agden on 24th, an impressive 90 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 25th and 30 at Old Ravenfield on 27th. September maxima related to 70 remaining at Wharnccliffe Chase on 3rd, 30 at Langsett Moor on 6th and 46 at Wilshaw on 8th, while there were 78 near Yateholme Res, Huddersfield on 2nd October.

There was little evidence of coastal passage, with 22 at Filey on 28th September, including a flock of 18, notable. Spurn recorded light passage during October, with 12 on 8th, four the next day and nine on 16th.

Inland visible migration watchers logged 218 heading over Oxenhope and 103 through Caldene during the autumn season, with a peak of 40 heading south over the former site on 21st September.

Mistle Thrushes were widely encountered mobbing predators, including both Little and Tawny Owls and Sparrowhawks. A flock of 20 at Hepworth on 10th September were encountered having a noisy confrontation with a Sparrowhawk, perhaps unsurprisingly, given both male and female Sparrowhawks will readily predate the species.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* **A** 2,2,0,21,17
Rare visitor and breeder

The breeding stronghold is in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration seems to be occurring, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

After last year's record autumn influx, plenty tried to over-winter and several fought off distinctly un-Mediterranean weather to linger into spring. The most northerly survived at Coatham Marsh, being recorded sporadically from 28th January until 14th March, but not thereafter. Further south, but no more temperate, a male remained at Tophill Low's South Marsh on 1st and 3rd January, with two different individuals skulking on the North Marsh on 4th. Although a single appeared again on Tophill's South Marsh on 28th February, this constituted the year's last sighting there. A single appeared near Rawcliffe Bridge on 31st January and the only record from Blacktoft Sands related to a lone individual on 14th March.

Present at Potteric Carr throughout the year and, after a report of two on 8th April, breeding was confirmed with young noted in the summer. In Sheffield, a male remained at Pit House West from 2009 through to 4th March, when two were present. Another lingered at Bolehill Flash, where a male was present from 2nd January to 27th March. The sole record at Pugney's CP came on 19th January, while one over-wintered at Nosterfield GP until 10th January, with another at Nosterfield NR on 23rd March.

Excluding the breeding pair at Potteric, the only other summer sighting related to a male trapped and ringed at Wheldrake Ings on 1st July.

Three, including one male, took up residence at Winterset on 10th October, staying until the year end. Puffin & High Eske NR then hosted a singing male on 23rd/24th October. Old Moor recorded its first on 24th October, with another from 31st October and a third from 30th November. This trio included a singing male, which showed well on 14th November fending off a Blue Tit from its temporary territory, but sadly none remained at Old Moor after 4th December. Hatfield Moors also hosted a single from 24th–27th October, while further north, one lingered at Staveley NR from 31st October through to 29th November. A single briefly visited Fairburn Ings on 6th November, but by December, even the Potteric Carr population became increasingly difficult to locate, with the last report there on 29th.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 6/216
This secretive West Palearctic species winters in West Africa. There has been a substantial national population decline since the 1970s, but local populations fluctuate annually and nationally there was a significant increase this year.

A single at Broomhill Flash on 9th April preceded three in the Spurn area, two at Thorne Moors and a single at South Gare the next day. Blacktoft Sands attracted the next on 12th April and daily arrivals commenced from 16th. There were significant pulses of new migrants on both 25th and 27th April, including six at Brough Airfield Marsh on the former date. New arrivals continued to trickle through into the first half of May and inland sites were still picking up arrivals into early June.

The national increase was reflected in a very good year across the county, including a record 28 singing males on Thorne Moors. The annual Nightjar census picked up 24 of these, as compared with an equivalent 20 on Thorne the previous year. Blacktoft Sands hosted 15 ‘reelers’, while a remarkable 21 held territory at Old Moor, compared with just six in 2009. Other appreciable counts included 13 singing at Winterset and eight at Fairburn Ings. In the Bradford area, breeding was proved at both Snaygill and, for the first time, at Thornton Moor. Elsewhere, many sites across the county held up to three territorial males, with locations as diverse as coastal scrub, upland reservoirs and lowland reed-bed fringes supporting populations. That many territorial males fall silent soon after arrival was evident at Worsborough, where three singing males from 27th April fell silent after 12th May.

In autumn, adults became mobile inland from the end of July, with juveniles dispersing a few weeks later, and migrants appeared along the coast at the end of August. An above average set of September records included five at Filey on 7th and four at Flamborough the next day. A single at Snaygill on 18th September represented the last inland, while along the coast there were singles at Easington and Filey on 28th September, South Gare on 9th and Spurn and Flamborough on 10th October.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* **A** 0,0,0,0,2
Rare migrant; 21 previous records
Breeds discontinuously from Western Europe east to the Black Sea and winters in tropical Africa.

A singing male in the ditch by the Wath Ings hide at Old Moor on the evening of 26th May performed well to the crowds in the evenings and mornings until 31st May (KT *et al.*). Amazingly, the finder had joked about finding one ten days earlier and could not believe her luck when one started buzzing in the ditch right in front of her. A succession of birders were able to, at the very least, enjoy the song, thanks to the effort of reserve staff and volunteers for what represented only the second site record.

Maintaining the RSPB monopoly, an altogether less obliging male sang at Blacktoft Sands on 12th and 13th July (MJP: PCS).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* **A**
Fairly common breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. BBS 17/216

Breeding from Ireland to central Siberia, this trans-Saharan migrant breeds in the county on low ground around lakes, along waterways and also in oilseed rape fields. Nationally the population is slightly decreasing or stable.

A single at Blacktoft Sands on 9th April and individuals at Monkton Ings, Fairburn and Filey on 10th were the first; the latter the earliest ever site record. These were followed by a slow procession of new arrivals over the next few days, which gathered momentum on 20th, before peaking significantly on 25th and 26th April. On 25th April nine arrived at both Old Moor and Winterset, although surprisingly Flamborough’s first was as late as 28th April. Further small waves of new migrants occurred from 2nd–5th, 12th and 25th May, with some evidence of arrivals continuing in the first few days of June.

After a succession of poor breeding seasons, many sites showed something of a return to form. Blacktoft Sands held 250 singing males (200 in 2008) and Fairburn Ings recorded a further increase to 64 territories (44 in 2009). Winterset hosted 29 territories, which represented the highest for six years, and there were 25 singing males at Snaygill on 5th May, the best showing for 15 years and 19 pairs subsequently bred. Other counts included 34 singing males at Old Moor (20 in 2009), 29 at Welton Waters and 25 at Pugney’s CP (five in 2009). However, not all sites showed an increase, with 17 singing males on Thorne Moors (30 in 2009), 13 at Tophill Low (22 in 2009) and seven at Went Ings (24 in 2009) showing just how difficult it can be to judge population changes from data obtained from just a handful of sites.

A single trapped and ringed at Lady Canning’s Plantation on 22nd July was highly unusual and perhaps the first indication of passage. Several sites were deserted by early August and ten at Spurn on 25th August represented the highest count on the coast.

September was above average, and 11th in particular produced two at both Flamborough and Silverwood Pit Top and singles at North Cave and Thorne Moors. Much later, singles made landfall at Long Nab and Filey on 27th September, Snaygill the next day, at Flamborough on 2nd October and at Spurn on 10th October. To round off the year, a remarkably late single remained well inland at Potteric Carr on 13th October.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* **A** 3,0,38,15,5
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant: occasional breeder
This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palearctic, but its tiny breeding population in southern England is declining. Spring coastal migrants occasionally breed.

After two consecutive fruitful years the five records represented a return to normality. The first was trapped and ringed at the Warren, Spurn on 1st June (AAH) and the second discovered singing nearby at the Point on 10th June, where it remained until 11th (PCo); it was also trapped and ringed on the first date.

More unusually, a singing male lingered on the bank of the River Dearne at Edderthorpe Flash from 15th–17th June and showed well enough to be well photographed during its stay (AS *et al.*).

In autumn, a particularly skulking first-winter located in the Top Scrub, Filey on 8th September was trapped and ringed and remained until the following day (JS *et al.*). Finally, an unidentified ‘acro’ discovered at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 2nd October only showed briefly (JWo *et al.*). Luckily it remained overnight and although it still proved frustratingly tricky to see, it was later trapped and ringed before being released at Canal Scrape.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **A**
Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 10/216

The nominate subspecies breeds in the western Palearctic and winters south of the Sahara. Although restricted by habitat requirements, nationally the population has been spreading northwards and westwards, and this pattern is reflected in the county. There was an increase nationally again this year.

Blacktoft Sands hosted its first on a relatively early 9th April, the same day as it hosted its first Sedge Warbler, but there then followed a lull as the next appeared at Hornsea Mere on 15th. The five-day period from 22nd–26th April brought a widespread arrival, although migration on the coast was uneventful and included migrants at Flamborough on just four dates in late May and two records of up to ten at Spurn over the same period.

There appeared to be mixed fortunes across the main sites, with 325 singing males from the principal location of Blacktoft Sands, some 75 lower than in 2008. A boat/land-based survey of Hornsea Mere, specifically aimed at assessing the population of this species, located 156 singing males. Old Moor bounced back to 73 males, from 40 the previous year, whilst Winterset held 71 males compared with 58 in 2009.



Reed Warbler ◉
Jack Ashton-Booth

The number of territorial males at Pugney’s CP and Swillington Ings remained more or less consistent compared to recent years, at 51 and 27 males respectively. In contrast, Tophill Low only held 18 territories, as opposed to 45 in 2009 and there was a similar story at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds, where the number of singing males halved. Three other sites held over 20 singing males, Edderthorpe Flash attracted 28, Thorne Moors held 26 and Potteric Carr 21.

A little more conspicuous in autumn, with low double-figure counts associated with the superb falls of migrants. At the start of the season, 14 at Spurn on 7th August presumably related to a post-breeding movement and a count of 60 at Crabley Creek on the same day was doubtless part of the same. Clearly linked to the easterly winds were 12 at Spurn on 3rd September and seven at Flamborough and ten at Spurn on 8th September. There were October records from eight widely dispersed sites, with the last coastal record at Spurn on 12th. However, Firsby held onto the last for the second year in succession, with one still present on 20th October.

EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; first county record
Breeds through the Balkans east to northern Afghanistan and migrates through the Middle East to winter in East Africa.

A grey ‘hippo’ located in the hawthorn in the south-west corner of Old Fall, Flamborough on 1st September required some level headedness to confirm the finder’s gut instinct, particularly when a Booted and a couple of Syke’s Warblers had been located in the country over the preceding two weeks (CCT *et al.*). Once car parking arrangements had been made, the news was quickly released, allowing birders a rare mainland opportunity to catch up with the species. Although elusive at times, it remained faithful to the same stretch of hedge and stayed until 3rd September and represented the first record for the county.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata* **A** 0,0,0,1,1
Rare migrant; 17 previous records
Breeds as close as Estonia and migrates in a south-easterly direction to winter on the Indian sub-continent. In a good year nationally for rare *hippolais* warblers, a first-winter at Grimston on 4th September was an excellent reward for its finder (TI *et al.*). Alas its stay was all too brief, and it departed overnight. Yorkshire has played host to almost 15% of all British Booted Warblers.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* **A** 4,2,46,14,20
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn
This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records occurs in spring.

There were three spring records, starting with the first trapped and ringed at the Warren, Spurn on 25th May, where it subsequently remained singing until the evening (RJB: PCo). Hoddy Cows Lane, Buckton then hosted a singing male on 26th May (PRM). Finally, the last of spring appeared at the Point, Spurn on 1st June, where it sang for most of the day (PCo: GED).

Autumn started with a bang with an obliging individual in Long Hedge, Filey (J&TGD *et al.*), two in the Gorse Field at Flamborough (RAB *et al.*) and a single at the Point, Spurn (PWr) on 14th August; one of the Flamborough individuals then remained until 18th August. On 15th August four more arrived, all confined to the Spurn area, a new individual at the Point (JMT), another nearby at post 58 (MG), one at Cliff Farm (LJD) and the last at Sammy’s Point (TMC).

Much later in the month, two frequented Old Fall, Flamborough on 27th August (AMA) and the next day the Bay Brambles at Flamborough hosted another (RAB). Four of September’s five arrived during the fall of 7th September, including a single in Bay Brambles that remained until 9th (PAL *et al.*), an elusive single at Blue Dolphin, Filey (JH *et al.*), a mobile individual on Castle Hill, Scarborough that lingered until 9th (NWA *et al.*) and the last at Grimston (TI). The only other September record referred to a single on the south side of Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th September (NWA *et al.*) and, remarkably, the year’s last remained elusive at the same location from 8th–11th October (NWA).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor/passage migrant; scarce wintering species
BBS 108/216: +50% (+61) 1995–2009, +47% (+15) 2009–10
Breeds throughout most of Europe. The significant long-term increase due to climate change, as recent mild winters have encouraged wintering in Britain and northern Europe and early return migration, seems to have resumed after stalling in 2007–2009.

Despite prolonged sub-zero temperatures, as many as 70 wintered in suburban gardens over the first two months, with a healthy number still in late February, suggesting there was reasonable survival. Sheffield again supported the most, around 20, but five in a garden in Westwood, Scarborough easily represented the highest single count. By late February wintering males were in song, at which point it became almost impossible to separate out newly arrived migrants, although the last few days of March brought the first obvious spring influx and perhaps singles at Kirklevington and Knaresborough on 25th represented the first true migrants.

These were the precursor to an excellent spring passage, which saw numbers well above recent years and a count of 23 at Spurn on 18th April was double last year’s peak. It was a similar story at Flamborough, where 16 on 21st May was the highest single day tally for three years. Obvious influxes at both inland and coastal locations took place on 1st/2nd April, 9th–12th, 18th and 25th April, with further pulses noted on 7th and 21st May.

Burgeoning numbers in summer included 100 singing males in the Ewden Valley and 86 at Winterset. Further signs that things were positive, were up to 50 pairs at Worsborough, 35 at Old Moor (20 in 2009) and 37 pairs at Fairburn Ings (31 in 2009). Thorne Moors hosted 19 singing males, the River Ouse between York and Naburn attracted 16 and Bretton Park a further 15. Bucking the trend, Tophill Low held 25 pairs, compared with 44 the previous year. Large numbers of juveniles were trapped and ringed at the end of the summer across a wide range of sites, indicating a productive season.

A superb autumn featuring almost endless falls produced one of the best passages in recent times and Spurn experienced one of the most notable on record. A total of 748 bird/days were logged, the highest count coming on 28th September when 68 were logged, with 66 at Flamborough the same day. However, passage was a protracted affair and started with 20 at Old Moor on 21st August and ten at Filey on 23rd August. High counts in October related to 40 at Spurn on 10th/11th and 18 at Flamborough on 18th, with migrants continuing to turn up in coastal locations until 22nd/23rd November.

After the harsh weather at the start of the year, it was perhaps surprising that wintering numbers in November and December were on a par with the previous year’s final two months; around 35 were noted, a third of which were again in Sheffield. During the freezing conditions in late November/December, many resorted to feeding on fallen fruit.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 21/216
A summer visitor from Africa which breeds throughout most of Europe in suitable habitat, it has declined in England by 17% since 1995.

After last year’s early arrivals, the first appeared on the same date as 2008, on 16th April at Allerthorpe Common. The next arrived at Flasks Lake on 19th April, before a more widespread arrival two days later, although coastal migrants only appeared from 26th April, with a single at Scarborough. A few appeared along the coast in May, with three at Spurn on 1st and 11th and nine at Flamborough on 23rd May. Despite many sites not receiving their first until late April, an adult nest building at Kettlewell, Upper Wharfedale on 28th April acted as a reminder that some settle down to breed very quickly after establishing successful territories.

Another small improvement in breeding reports was encouraging, including 28 singing males at Winterset, one up on the previous year, and 20 at Worsborough represented an increase of two. Only 12 territorial males at Tophill Low meant a small decrease, but other good numbers included 21 in the Ewden Valley, 14 at Lindley Wood Res in mid May, 13 at both Thorne Moors and along the Trans-Pennine Trail at Dunford Bridge and ten pairs at Fairburn Ings. In Upper Wharfedale, Atlas work revealed males holding territory further north than had previously been recorded.

It was undoubtedly a superb autumn along the coast and, after some inland sites recorded their last in late July, the first appeared at Spurn on 28th July. Aside from six at Flamborough on 14th and 28th August, the month proved relatively quiet. However, a succession of easterly winds brought a quartet of falls, starting on 7th September, when six made landfall at Filey and Buckton, 12 at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 15 between Long Nab and Scalby, 20 at Spurn and an impressive 47 at Flamborough. Next day, totals had risen to 21 at Spurn and the coastal strip between Castle Hill and Long Nab hosted 25. Higher than average numbers appeared inland during the same period and the last graced Thorne Moors on 21st September. Another fall over 27th–29th September, grounded 22 at Spurn on the former date, six at both Hunt Cliff and Filey and three at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th and 28 were logged at Spurn the next day. On 2nd October, an unexpectedly high count of 13 at Spurn heralded the next arrival, while another spell of easterlies induced five to appear at Flamborough on 10th, three at Castle Hill, Scarborough the next day and three at Spurn on 12th. Migrants did not linger after the last fall, with the last present at Buckton on 13th October.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* **A** 12,10,9,17,61

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

Breeds through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first Yorkshire autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

Heralding a spectacular autumn, the first two arrived at Hundale Plantation at Long Nab and Hunt Cliff on 14th August, the latter remaining to 15th. A single lurked in ‘Bay Brambles’, Flamborough on 15th August, followed by Spurn’s first on 21st August. The latter constituted the first of at least 20 found within the observatory recording area through until 9th October, with peak counts of four on 30th/31st August and again on 4th September and six present during the fall that occurred on 7th September.

Away from Spurn, one lingered at Northcliffe Marsh, Flamborough from 21st–23rd August, a single appeared at Head Farm, Flamborough on 25th and two were nearby in the Gorse Field from 27th–28th. One lingered in Bay Brambles at Flamborough from 28th–31st August, another frequented the northern end of Beacon Lane, Kilnsea from 30th–31st and Flamborough’s Outer Head Gardens hosted a single on 31st August.

September started with a single in the Gorse Field, Flamborough and another in Long Hedge, Filey on 1st that stayed the next day. Sammy’s Point hosted the next on 2nd, two graced Flamborough’s Gorse Field on 3rd and, next day, one appeared at Northstead Manor Gardens, Scarborough, the same day as another appeared in Flamborough’s ‘Bay Brambles’. On 6th September, one made landfall at Buckton, with the same still present the following day and then a supporting cast to Spurn’s six on 7th September included new arrivals at the Gorse Field and Holmes Gut, both Flamborough, and, near Scarborough, there were singles on the north side of Castle Hill, another at Long Nab and another near the hide at Scalby Lodge. One showed well in the Dell at Bempton Cliffs on 8th and, what was thought to be a new individual, appeared on the south side of Castle Hill, Scarborough on 9th September. Flamborough’s Outer Head gardens hosted another on 10th September and a particularly elusive individual skulked at Hummersea on 11th.

There were then no further records away from Spurn until singles pitched down at Old Fall, Flamborough and Crookness on 26th September, the latter lingering to 28th. A small fall on 27th included singles at Willow Cottage in Easington, at Easington Gas Terminal, at Ocean View Farm in Flamborough, near Filey CP and on South Gare. The latter site enjoyed another that stayed on 28th/29th September, with the former date also producing singles at Scalby Lodge and Holmes Gut at Flamborough. To round off a superb month, a single appeared in the ‘Stile Scrub’ at Scalby on 30th September.

October produced far fewer reports, with the aforementioned Willow Cottage individual joined by another on 2nd and singles in Flamborough’s Allotments and at Holmpton the same day. South Gare’s third of the autumn on 10th October appeared to be the last, until a far more unusual record of a single lingering in a Siggleshorpe garden from 22nd–27th October; it was photographed feeding on grapes provided on a bird table (M&PH).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **A**

Fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 17/216

The nominate form is a summer visitor to Western Europe, migrating south–east to its wintering grounds in north–east and central Africa. Nationally there has been only a slight decline since 1995.

The first arrived at Hornsea Mere on 15th April and, the following day, additional singing males appeared at Canklow, Thrybergh CP and Tophill Low. After a scattering of new migrants appeared on a daily basis, the 25th April sparked an influx, with 13 at Spurn on that date, 16 at Flamborough on 28th and 22 logged at Spurn on 29th April. There were surprisingly few reports during the first days of May, but this was punctuated by an arrival of ten at Flamborough on 6th May and, three days later, by another 11 at Spurn.

At Wintersetts 18 territories represented the highest number since 1994 and 12 at Old Moor also above average. Nine singing males held territory at Spurn, with plenty of juveniles present in late summer, indicating good productivity. In addition, Fairburn Ings hosted six singing males. Again the Bradford recording area only recorded a single, with a similar story in Upper Wharfedale. However, that the situation is better in the east was amply illustrated by the 20 territories located in Filey’s recording area.

Along with other migrant passerines, it was a good autumn, which started fairly swiftly after dispersal, with nine at Flamborough on 14th August, 15 at Spurn on 21st and 25th August and 12 present there on 4th September. The fall on 7th September produced 16 at Spurn and another influx at the end of the month produced 12 at Spurn on 27th and nine at Flamborough the next day.

The latest inland records related to singles at Hay–a–Park GP and Clifton Backies, York on 18th September, with the latter site attracting a respectable six earlier in the month on 3rd. Flamborough hosted six on 10th October, a single trapped and ringed at Buckton on 15th showed characteristics associated with an eastern form, while the last made landfall at Spurn on 18th October.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **A**

Amber list: fairly common to common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 95/216: –3% (+23) 1995–2009, +21% (+10) 2009–10

The western European nominate form winters in the vulnerable semi–arid northern Sahel zone. The population appears has recovered nationally to 2004 levels, and 2010 was a good year in the county for this species.

An early arrival appeared at Bolton Ings on 7th April, the earliest ever record for the Barnsley area and was swiftly followed by singles at Hatfield Moors and Lowther Lake on 9th, the latter the earliest ever for Leeds. New arrivals on 10th included two singing males at Swillington Ings and singles at Flamborough, Fairburn Ings, Potteric Carr and Dinnington Marsh, near Rotherham. An excellent spring passage continued with 53 at Spurn on 27th April, 28 at Flamborough on 28th, followed by 34 at Flamborough on 19th May and 67 logged at Spurn on 22nd.

The breeding season produced some of the highest counts for many years, with 70 singing males at Wintersetts, compared with 49 in 2009, and 48 pairs at Spurn, five pairs up on last year. Other impressive populations included 40 males holding territory at Speeton Manor Farm on 15th May, 33 at both Fairburn Ings and Thorne Moors, whilst the Filey recording area hosted some 60 territories. In the Kelk area, 28 singing males were considered exceptional. However, a decrease was evident around Bradford and the Woodlesford area of Leeds, although unusually a male held territory on a roundabout on East Street in Leeds City Centre.

A ringing session at Tankersley, Sheffield on 17th July trapped 12 and this probably constituted one of the first indications that dispersal was underway, while 40 at Dewsbury SF on 3rd August highlighted movement into favoured feeding areas soon after breeding.

Easterly winds and associated rain on 14th August produced an increase along the coast around Scarborough, including 14 at Ravenscar. August then continued to produce some significant falls, including 59 at Spurn on 22nd, 45 at Flamborough on 24th, an impressive 74 at Spurn on 25th August and, later in the month, 17 at Long Nab on 31st. Inland maxima in August included ten at Firsby Res on 21st and eight at Fulford Ings, York the same day.

Although not featuring to the same degree in the September falls as other species, 46 appeared at Spurn on 3rd September, with 28 at Flamborough the next day. Inland, Old Moor hosted ten on 5th September, whilst 12 at Spurn on 27th September were notable for such a late date. There were three exceptionally late inland records in October, with singles at Rodley NR and Firsby Res on 2nd and Healey Mills on 5th. Along the coast, Spurn hosted the last on 11th October, where a total of 282 trapped and ringed represented one of the best such years on record.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **A**

2,1,1,1,3

Rare migrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 68 previous records

The European and west Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to west Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

Spring records are always welcomed, so a single discovered on the cliff alongside Flamborough GC during a nesting seabird survey on 9th June represented a notable find (PC *et al.*).

Fitting a more established pattern, the next appeared at the Point at Spurn on 2nd September and showed well during the evening (HC: MD *et al.*). The last made landfall at Flamborough during the substantial fall on 7th September and remained in the gardens on the Outer Head until 8th (RAB: PC).

PALLAS’S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **A**

2,8,20,2,17

Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 405 previous records

Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in south–east Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

A good showing, starting with a particularly uncooperative single in Church Ravine, Filey on 9th/10th October (J&TGD *et al.*). Far more cooperative, one showed well at Sammy’s Point on 10th October (CG *et al.*), followed swiftly by a single at South Landing, Flamborough on 11th/12th October (DTh *et al.*). Another made landfall in Holmes Gut, Flamborough on 12th (DO–M *et al.*). Holmpton then hosted two on 16th October (GJS), before a break until the next that commuted between the Churchyard and Kew Villa at Kilnsea on 24th/25th October. After disappearing for a few days, it reappeared in the same area on 29th and again lingered overnight before departing for good (LJD *et al.*).

An arrival on 31st October produced another five, including one near Beacon Ponds, which stayed until 1st November (JMB *et al.*). Others showed well at ‘Booted Gully’, Flamborough (CCT *et al.*), near Filey Tip (J&TGD *et al.*), Barmston (AMH) and a Dutch re–trap at Black Nab, Whitby (see page 192).

A single trapped at Kew Villa, Kilnsea on 8th November showed well after release and re–appeared on 10th (TSp *et al.*). The next turned up at South Landing, Flamborough on 9th November and remained until the next day (JOM *et al.*), while Flamborough struck lucky again, with another in Dane’s Dyke South from 12th–14th November (BR *et al.*). The penultimate individual appeared in a mist net at Kew Villa on 19th November, while the shelter of South Landing proved conducive to one that lingered from 21st–27th November (RAB *et al.*).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **A** 58,148,135,76,74
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland and in spring

This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to south-east Asia. It mostly occurs from mid-September to early November, and since the mid-1980s numbers have significantly increased.

The autumn's first made landfall by the Gorse Field, Flamborough on 22nd September ahead of a single trapped and ringed at Kew Villa, Kilnsea on 25th. Another 19 individuals then passed through Spurn on 12 further days through until 9th October, with an additional single on 16th October. Higher counts at Spurn included four on 29th September, five on 30th and four on both 5th and 8th October.

Elsewhere, Old Fall hosted a single on 26th September, before up to three featured on a daily basis at Flamborough to the end of the month, with seven individuals thought to be involved. On 27th September, one joined a tit flock at Castle Hill, another appeared on the Humber foreshore at Paull Holme Strays (PMA) and a third was discovered in the 'greater' Spurn area; the latter, one of ten such noted up until 19th October, with a peak of four on 28th September. Additional records on 28th included singles at South Gare (staying until 29th), at Crook Ness near Long Nab, Church Ravine at Filey, and most notably, in a garden at James Reckitt Avenue in Hull until 30th September (NP).

A small influx on 2nd October involved three new arrivals at Flamborough and singles at Filey CP, Reighton Sands and Hunt Cliff. A single filtered into Flatmere, Flamborough on 4th and there then followed several days with no new arrivals. The next appeared in Filey CP on 8th, with another trapped there the next day, when fresh arrivals included singles on Scarborough's Castle Hill, the east side of Whitby, at Sunk Island and at least two at both Flamborough and Hunt Cliff.

The single remained in residence at Whitby on 10th October, when further north-easterlies triggered another small fall. Singles were located in Sycarham Wood and Newland's Dale, both at Cloughton, one frequented Parish Wood in Filey, another graced Locke Park in Redcar, and well inland, a single appeared at Nosterfield NR and then lingered through to 31st October (SPW *et al.*). New finds on 11th October included two at Saltburn, one at South Landing, Flamborough and a single at St Mary's Church, Scarborough that lingered until 13th October. Perhaps the same reappeared at Castle Hill from 15th-17th October. Further north, a lone individual appeared in private woodland inland of Skelton on 12th October and Filey's last was trapped and ringed in Top Scrub on 13th.

Finally, a single in Flamborough village on 5th November was presumably the same that had filtered into nearby South Landing the next day.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **A** 2,0,4,4,2
Rare coastal migrant on autumn; 48 previous records

This south Siberian species winters in south-east Asia.

Filey's sixth ever was discovered during classic conditions on 9th October at the upper end of Long Lane (JHo *et al.*). It remained the following day, where it showed intermittently along the edge of the Country Park throughout.

Less obliging, a single trapped in a mist net at Church Field, Spurn on 10th October only showed to those assembled at Kew Villa on its release (PCo *et al.*).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **A** 1,2,2,1,1
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 38 previous records

This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.

A single discovered during the morning inside the Castle Grounds at Scarborough swiftly moved to the south side of Castle Hill (NWA *et al.*). It remained here until 17th October and was widely appreciated during its stay, proving to be the most photogenic individual to visit the county. It represented the second record for both the Castle and the wider Scarborough recording area.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; six previous records

Breeds from Iberia to France, south Germany and Austria and winters along the southern edge of the Sahara.

A superb spell at the beginning of September continued with Bempton Cliffs' second ever in the Dell on 11th September. Although a little mobile, it eventually showed well enough near the car park to please the assembled masses and remained the next day (TD *et al.*). The last record occurred in exactly the same location in late August 2004.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 3/216

The breeding range of this trans-Saharan migrant is restricted to woodlands on the upland margins extending up to the Arctic Circle, with Britain's rapidly declining population on the western edge of its breeding range.

An especially early migrant arrived at Saltmarshe Delph on 11th April, with a singing male at Strid Woods on 18th the earliest ever there. The coast hosted three migrants during spring, starting with a singing male at Buckton on 25th April, another at nearby Bempton Cliffs the next day and a single at Old Fall, Flamborough on 28th April. Inland, migrants included singles at Hatfield Moors on 26th April and Fairburn Ings on 8th May.

During the summer there appeared to be little change in status, with most traditional sites holding onto their few remaining pairs. At Wykeham Forest, a pair on 6th June was seen feeding young on 13th June, with a second male present on 21st June. Just to the west in Dalby Forest, a male sang at Dalby Beck picnic site on 7th May, with another male nearby in the Ellerburn/Pexton area from 25th May until 13th June and a third singing at Heckdale on 14th June. In the Howardian Hills, Yearsley Moor hosted a singing male from 28th April until 15th May.

The Sheffield area again produced the bulk of records, with three singing males in Blacka Plantation and another at Fox Hagg, Rivelin on 29th April. Up to five males sang in Blacka Plantation on 23rd May and the Sorby Breck ringing group caught three broods there in mid June. Wyming Brook held up to three males between 5th May and 13th June and Wharcliffe Wood hosted singles on 8th and 21st May, with a male carrying food for young on 27th June. Singing males were heard from Broomhead Res on 25th April, where there were up to three territories during the summer, whilst more unusually, one sang from a lone Scots Pine on Little Moor on 27th April. Sites visited by less faithful individuals included Strines on 1st May, Firsby Res from 2nd-4th May, Rivelin Rough, with a pair on 11th May and a male still on 13th, and both Howden Res and Shirtcliffe Valley, which hosted singles on 14th May. In addition, Agden attracted a single on 1st May and two on 16th May.

There were four records around Huddersfield, starting with the first at Denby Dale on 23rd/24th April and then a cluster in the middle of May, with a single lingering at Netherwood from 8th-22nd, the next at Cawthorne Park on 9th and a single at Cliff Wood, Langsett on 12th May. Further north, one graced Hardcastle Craggs on 16th May, a male stayed for a few days at Shroggs Road Landfill from 3rd-10th June and one put in a very brief appearance at Marley Hall Farm, Bradford on 5th June.

Strid Wood remains a stronghold, although only in the context of an overall decline, and there were three present during the breeding season, including an adult carrying food for young on 14th June. A singing male at Heber's Ghyll in May and June was the first there since 2007, although conversely, there were no sightings from Grass Wood. Finally, Guisecliffe Wood near Harrogate held a single singing male on 9th and 15th May, one was at Bryan's Wood, Dacre on 19th May and another north-west of Ripon at Grewelthorpe on 25th April.

A single at Redmires Plantation on 28th July may have related to local dispersal, but Fairburn's second of the year on 3rd August indicated more widespread movement.

Coastal passage was well above average, particularly at Spurn, where the first appeared on 30th July at Beacon Lane, followed quickly by another at the Warren on 1st August. A single was trapped and ringed at Filey during westerlies on 5th August and another remained in the Coastguard Cottage Gardens at Flamborough on 7th/8th August. Two made landfall at Spurn on 14th August, one at Chalk Bank and the other at Cliff Farm, with the latter staying overnight, and these preceded two at South Gare the next day.

One kept company with a tit flock on Castle Hill on 16th August and singles then appeared at the Point, Spurn on 17th August and at nearby Cliff Farm on 27th. The month ended with three enlivening proceedings at Spurn on 30th August.

The easterlies in early September produced a flurry of records, starting with one settled in the Kew Villa area, Kilnsea from 2nd–8th. Additional records included two joining the Kew Villa individual on 4th, fresh arrivals at Spurn at the Warren and Middle Hedge on 5th, a single at Sammy’s Point from 6th–8th, two at North Dykes and one at Old Fall, Flamborough on 7th, along with singles at post 34, Spurn and Vicar’s Lane, Easington and lastly, a mobile individual at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 8th. A break in records then ensued, before a final flurry at the end of September, which brought a single to the Potato Fields at Spurn on 26th–27th, another at Sammy’s Point on 27th and, the penultimate single, to South Landing on 28th September.

Surprisingly, the last was controlled at Blacka Plantation on the very late date of 17th October; it had been ringed in the nearby Rivelin Valley as a pullus on 12th July 2009.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor; scarce in winter

BBS 98/216: +134% (+53) 1995–2009, +42% (+12) 2009–10

There has been a long-term increase nationally and particularly in Yorkshire, as this species adapts to milder winters and adopts shorter winter migration patterns.

Records in January and February suggested a decline, presumably due to the bitterly cold weather, with records from Flamborough, Swillington Ings, Horbury SF, Pit–House West, Bolehill Flash, High Batts NR, Doncaster and Wath Wood, Swinton, plus two in Rotherham, representing a decline of around a third over the previous year.

Impossible to distinguish genuine spring arrivals from dispersing wintering individuals, singles at Catcliffe Flash and Farnley Hall on 4th March may have been the former, but more convincing were two at Thorne Moors on 16th March. Two arrived at Hatfield Moors, as well as singles at Spurn and Potteric Carr, on 17th March and five widely dispersed singles arrived the next day. The influx increased in momentum over the next few days, including 11 at Potteric Carr by 23rd March, 11 at Spurn on 26th, 13 at Ulley CP and 21 at Old Moor on 27th and 14 at Elland GP on 28th March. Early April featured multiple arrivals and of these, 33 at Spurn on 9th April was the most impressive and by 10th April, 25 were singing in Rother Valley CP. Nine at Flamborough on 13th and 23rd May indicated some late passage, as did a single trapped and ringed at Buckton on 2nd June.

There was little doubt that it was an excellent breeding season, with the well covered Winterset recording its highest ever number, a particularly impressive 84 singing males. In the Worsborough Valley, there were up to 50 pairs, equal to last year’s total, and 23 at Fairburn Ings (19 in 2009) and 34 at Thorne Moors (30 in 2009) were both welcome increases, while the Old Moor area hosted 26 territories.

Autumn passage was stunning along the coastal fringe from late September, in marked contrast to last year’s subdued showing. Two trapped and ringed inland at Tankersley on 17th July and another at Spurn on 20th July started the ball rolling and Thrybergh CP hosted up to 28 on 21st August, with Healey Mills NR logging 20 on 31st August. Thrybergh attracted 22 and Old Moor 45 on 5th September, whilst another 20 were at Healey Mills NR on 8th September, with the first appreciable number along the coast, 20 at Castle Hill, Scarborough the same day.

There was a short lull in mid September, before the floodgates opened on 27th, when 70 were at Spurn, 80 at Flamborough and 35 at Buckton. Filey recorded 45 and Flamborough 74 the next day and on 29th September 50 graced Castle Hill, Scarborough. Another fall commenced on 8th October, when 23 made landfall on Castle Hill, 45 at Filey and 81 at Spurn. The influx consolidated the next day, with 45 on Castle Hill, 152 at Flamborough and 214 at Spurn and peaked spectacularly on 10th, with 40 at Buckton, 60 on Castle Hill, 80 at South Gare, 136 at Flamborough, up to 200 north of the Spurn Observatory recording area and an additional 260 at Spurn itself. By 12th October many had moved on, but Spurn was still able to amass 143, although another 100 then cleared out overnight and numbers subsequently remained low into November. The last coastal migrant remained on Castle Hill on 22nd November.

Despite the onslaught of heavy snow at the end of November, wintering individuals were found at Filey, Lemonroyd, Keighley, Brighouse, Healey Mills NR, Thrybergh CP, Firsby Res, Staveley NR, Fairburn Ings, Pugney’s CP, Went Ings, Cottingham and Selby, with two at Old Moor and in Rotherham. In addition, singles at Nosterfield NR, Lowther Lake and Thorne Moors in early November might have attempted to over-winter.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* **A**
Rare passage migrant; occasionally overwinters

All records have been accepted by the County’s Adjudication Panel.

Three records were all confined to October, starting with a single photographed at Blue Dolphin, Filey on 8th October which remained until 11th (JH *et al.*). The same weather system was responsible for the arrival of one at Buckton on 10th October, which was trapped and ringed (JMP: MST). Finally, the last appeared on the south side of Castle Hill, Scarborough on 20th October and remained in residence the following day, when it was sound-recorded (JM *et al.*).

IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus ibericus* **A**
Vagrant; one previous record

The population breeds from south–west France in the Pyrenees through into Iberia and winters in Africa.

Remarkably, after only one previous record, this rare ‘phyllosc’ appeared twice during spring. The first, a singing male, arrived at Potteric Carr on 11th May and then remained faithful to a small patch of woodland through until 22nd June (RJS *et al.*). Not surprisingly for such a long stayer, it proved a popular attraction throughout, but was a particularly scruffy individual, a plumage feature shared by a number of UK records.

Another singing male appeared at Grimston on 13th June, a just reward for a dedicated patch–worker at the tail end of the spring. Like the previous individual, its song was recorded and it remained until 18th June (TI *et al.*)

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **A**
Amber list: common to abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 123/216: +8% (–30) 1995–2009, –3% (–4) 2009–10

The populations of this species, the commonest trans–Saharan passerine migrant, have been declining in Europe and in southern and eastern England, but it has been increasing in northern England and Scotland.

With ever earlier arrival dates, the number of March records seems to escalate year on year, with the first arriving at Lindley Wood Res on 21st March, the first of 18 sites to host the species before the end of the month. The next made landfall at Flamborough on 24th, before singles the following day at Hay–a–Park GP and Meltham Mills. Filey’s earliest ever appeared on 28th March, with Spurn’s first two days later.

April proved to be an excellent month and Spurn logged the first big arrival on 18th, when 42 were present, followed by 31 on 23rd April and 34 on 24th. Rain further north on 25th April, grounded 25 at Buckton, 30 at Castle Hill and 51 at Flamborough. Counts at the latter site increased over forthcoming days, with 56 present on 28th and the top spring tally of 58 by 30th April. May lacked appreciable influxes, with a best of 17 at Flamborough on 1st May.

At the principal breeding sites, numbers remained on a par with last year, with Fairburn holding onto 95 pairs and the Worsborough area retaining some 65 to 70 territories. Three other counts were received of over 50 singing males and included 83 at Thorne Moors, 59 in the Little Don Valley at Langsett and 59 on the Trans–Pennine Trail at Dunford Bridge. A number of sites supported over 30 pairs, the best of these at Royd Moor Res, where there were up to 40 territories. There were some decreases, with only 31 singing males at Tophill Low, compared with 64 the previous year, whilst 32 singing males at Wharnccliffe Wood represented a drop of around 20 territories.

From the middle of July, the steady dispersal of juveniles brought high numbers to richer feeding areas, including 30 at Scout Dike Res on 18th August, 33 at Winterset on 1st August, 50 feeding in hemlock at Rodley NR in late August and, a particularly impressive, 80 feeding on flies hatching from the filter beds at Dewsbury SF on 31st August.

Coastal migrants appeared from 19th July and there were double figures at Spurn from 31st July through until 10th September, including a succession of large falls. The first of these was evident on 31st July, when 30 were found on the peninsula, and, on 5th August, the number present increased to 49. On 14th August a widespread fall included eight at Long Nab, ten trapped and ringed at Filey, 15 at Buckton, 63 at Spurn and 92 at Flamborough. Another wave pushed through between 23rd and 27th August, involving 42 at Flamborough on 23rd, 56 at Spurn on 25th and 67 logged at the latter site on 27th.

September’s major fall on 7th grounded 13 at Castle Hill, 25 at Buckton, 64 at Flamborough and 70 at Spurn. Later in the month, a gathering of 22 at Spurn on 27th September was notably high for such a late date. Not surprisingly, with such consistently good numbers earlier in the autumn, unusually high counts featured into October. Ravenscar hosted five on 2nd October and Spurn 12 on 9th. A single fed on mealworms in a Yeadon garden between 17th September and 11th October, whilst one in Church Ravine, Filey on 13th November was easily the year’s last.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **A**
Fairly common resident and passage migrant. BBS 21/216

Breeds from Britain east to Japan: northern birds are migratory responding to cold weather and breeding success. The population has been steadily increasing, largely due to the creation of suitable coniferous habitat, but harsh winter weather probably accounted for the contraction in recording, from 31 BBS squares in 2008 to 12 in 2009, but back to 21 this year.

Conditions at the beginning of the year took their toll, with records from Barnsley suggesting an 80% downturn and this was reflected around Leeds and Sheffield, with some regular sites failing to produce any records during the first two months. The best counts related to a meagre four at both Flamborough and Broomhead in Sheffield, whilst a single that visited a Harrogate garden on 10th January attempted to feed on peanuts, indicating just how desperate times were.

Spring passage hardly gave room for optimism, with Flamborough logging just six bird/days and Spurn recording more Firecrests. What little passage there was at Spurn spanned the period 20th March until 5th April, with an isolated record of a single on 27th April.

There were healthier indications during the breeding season, with 20 in Deffer Wood, Huddersfield on 10th March, 20 at Hardcastle Craggs on 19th May and an estimated 50 present within a 1km square in Wykeham Forest on 18th April. Breeding success seemed to be reasonable, especially around Leeds, although a return to form was not universal and some sites near Huddersfield reported low numbers.

Autumn provided a very welcome contrast to the particularly thin passage the previous year. A single at Long Nab on 2nd September heralded the start, while inland, 16 were trapped and ringed at Lady Canning's Plantation. Spurn reported its first on 8th September, with both Flamborough and Filey following suit on 12th. The only high count during mid September related to 12 at Old Moor on 19th, but migrants poured in from late in the month. On 27th September there were 15 at Buckton, 22 at Cloughton, 38 at Flamborough, 40 at Long Nab, 70 at Filey and 107 at Spurn, while the following day produced 41 at Flamborough and 19 at Castle Hill on 29th. Counts of 14 at Firsby Res and 15 at Haw Park on 7th October didn't really hint at what was to happen over the next three days, as easterly winds heralded an appreciable arrival. A major fall was sparked off on 8th, including 185 at Spurn and 25 at Castle Hill and the next day, Castle Hill hosted 90, Flamborough 170, Filey 197 and Spurn 285. By 10th October, a few had filtered away from Flamborough and Castle Hill, although tallies of 150 and 70 were none-the-less respectable, but Filey now mustered 225 and Spurn an impressive 600. Numbers gradually tailed off, but there were still subsequent peaks of 120 at Flamborough, 50 at Castle Hill and 40 at Buckton on 11th, but by 20th, numbers had dropped to single figures at most sites, although inland, Firsby Res hosted 14 on 31st October. There were few double figure tallies during November, with 17 at Flamborough on 10th and 20 at Hatfield Moors on 21st. Spurn's last was recorded on 21st and Filey's on 26th, while notable counts away from the coast included 14 at Firsby Res on 23rd and ten in Greno Wood, Sheffield on 27th November.

Snowfalls at the end of November resulted in no records from either Halifax or the Hull Valley during December. The highest count in the final month related to ten in Haw Park near Winterset on 21st, but no other site supported more than five.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **A**

32,35,102,67,58

Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with north European populations migrating south-westwards to winter around the Mediterranean and providing a double passage on the coast.

There were two January records, the first a legacy of the previous year at Pit House West and noted sporadically from 23rd January until 3rd February and another paid a brief visit to Fewston Res on 25th. In February one appeared at Cragg Wood, Apperley Bridge on 11th and stayed until 6th March.

Spring migration was typical, except for Spurn, which experienced a particularly good passage. A single that lingered at Hatfield Moors from 8th-16th March occurred ahead of synchronized arrivals at Spurn and Old Fall, Flamborough on 23rd March. Spurn logged another 20 individuals through to the last, unusually a singing male at the Point on 3rd June. The bulk passed through up to 24th April, but singles also occurred at Spurn on 11th and 20th May and peak counts involved four on 25th March, three on 3rd April and five on 17th April. Elsewhere, one brightened South Gare on 27th/28th March and another enlivened Old Fall on 31st March, with another present there on 3rd/4th April. April also produced singles at Sammy's Point on 8th and 11th, in 'Booted Gully', Flamborough on 9th/10th April and at Old Moor on 10th. Another then appeared in 'Booted Gully' on 18th April.

In a relatively quiet autumn, a juvenile trapped and ringed at Kew Villa on 28th August marked the start, with the same individual again on 30th. The warbler fall of 7th September produced a relatively early pulse, with five at Flamborough, two of which stayed overnight, and a single at Sammy's Point. The same movement was undoubtedly responsible for the single on the south side of Castle Hill on 9th, whilst the only other September record came from Filey on 27th.

Two were together at post 51, Spurn on 8th October, the same day as another much further north at South Gare; this latter then stayed through to 11th. Sammy's Point hosted a single on 10th October, whilst Flamborough recorded a couple on 16th, in South Landing and at Old Fall. An individual in Arndale, Filey on 18th October proved particularly difficult to see, not so the one in Kew Villas' mist nets on 23rd October. The last October sighting related to one discovered in South Landing on 28th.

November continued in a similar style, with a single trapped and ringed at Kew Villa on 10th and another joined the Long-tailed Tit flock on Castle Hill from 10th-22nd November. A single well inland at Blacka Moor on 14th/15th November may have been attempting to over-winter, followed by late coastal migrants at Dane's Dyke South, Flamborough, with a single on 21st and two on 27th November. The year ended with two December records, a single at Sunnyside, Rotherham on 4th and one at Silver Wood, Sheffield on 14th.

BROWN FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa dauurica* **A**

0,1,0,0,1

Vagrant; one previous record

Nominate *dauurica* breeds in central Siberia and southeast Russia, northern Mongolia, northeast China, North Korea, Sakhalin and Japan and winters in southern China, southeast Asia and the Philippines.

Coming days after the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, vagrants from the east were clearly on the cards, but the discovery of one at Buckton on 5th September came as a major surprise (DW *et al.*). Found in the afternoon, it stayed faithful to a small dell until dusk, but unfortunately wasn't present the following morning.

Only the fourth record for the UK, this was incredibly the second for the wider Flamborough Headland, after the first in Old Fall during October 2007.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 8/216

Distributed across the western and central Palearctic, this long-distance trans-Saharan migrant is usually one of the last to arrive, in mid-May. In common with many of these migrants, the population has been declining – nationally by 52% since 1995.

The first appeared in Ripon on 3rd May, whilst the only appreciable spring passage was recorded at Spurn. After a single at the observatory on 8th May, there were almost daily records from 15th May to 11th June, with maxima including 15 on 24th May, seven on 31st May and 13 at Spurn on 1st June.

In the north-east, there were two pairs at Lockwood Beck, a male holding territory in Guisborough and probable pairs in Guisborough Forest and at Slapewath, Newton Wood, Kilton and Westworth Wood. South of York, Skipwith Common had a better than average year and two pairs eventually bred.

The woodlands west of Sheffield once again illustrated their significance and held relatively good numbers. There were five singing at Blacka Moor, three territories at Redmires and single males at Limb Valley, Rivelin Dam and Wyming Brook. Within the Barnsley area, two pairs raised at least nine young in the Upper Little Don Valley, with at least three territories located at both Langsett Wood and Broomhead Res. Two pairs bred at Ellerslie Lodge, Oxspring, Wharnccliffe Wood and Birthwaite Hall Farm at Darton, with single pairs in Sheephouse Wood, Cliff Wood and Wentworth Castle Gardens. There were records from 16 sites near Huddersfield, with breeding proved at three and an encouraging number of fledged juveniles noted.

In contrast to its Pied cousin, commoner in upper than mid Wharfedale, with nine reports of breeding, including pairs in gardens at Manor Park and Kilnsey and pairs also bred at Denton and in Strid Wood. Further north, a pair again bred in a halved coconut shell at Ripon and fledged five young, with another family party noted on nearby Boroughbridge Road, Ripon. Family parties were also observed in Low Hall Wood at Dacre Banks, Glasshouses and Colsterdale and a pair held territory at Daw Cross, Pannal. In the Malham area, eight pairs bred on the estate, and another at Tennant Ghyll, the best showing in many years.

The last inland records included three at Langsett on 21st September, singles at Potteric Carr on 22nd and Beswick on 26th and three at Rodley NR on 2nd October.

September's fall conditions ensured a bumper return passage and Spurn logged 229 bird/days, compared with 125 the previous year, and this represented the highest total over the last ten years. There were two pulses, starting with 24 at Spurn on 6th September, followed by a more general arrival on 7th, including eight at South Gare, 12 at Filey, five at Buckton, 39 at Flamborough and 42 at Spurn. Spurn then hosted 15 on 27th September, with subsequent singles at Buckton the next day, Cromer Point on 29th and singles at Filey on 10th October and Spurn on 13th.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* **A**

3,2,45,5,15

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid-August to mid-November.

An elusive female-type remained at the Point, Spurn on 1st-2nd June (JHe *et al.*). Autumn passage started with a single briefly at Kew Villa, Kilnsea (AAH) and another at Sammy's Point (ISc) on 6th September, followed by one at Cliff Farm, Spurn (AR) and another at Sammy's Point (TMck) two days

later. One made landfall near Head Farm, Flamborough on 27th September (JMP), when another showed well at the Potato Fields, Spurn, with the latter staying until the following day (AR *et al.*). A single sheltered in Sixpenny Wood, Flamborough on 29th September (JAB *et al.*) and, the next day, others appeared at South Landing, Flamborough (PAL *et al.*) and the Point at Spurn (GP *et al.*).

Two sought shelter at the Potato Fields, Spurn (RSCa: PWR *et al.*) and a single appeared near Easington Gas Terminal on 9th October (LJD: NW *et al.*), followed by another in Church Ravine, Filey from 11th–13th October (TIC *et al.*). Finally, the Churchyard/Kew Villa hosted the last on 17th October (JG *et al.*).



Red-breasted Flycatcher •
Jonathan Pomroy

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* A

Amber list: increasingly uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

A summer migrant to the Western Palearctic from western Africa, the breeding range in the county is largely restricted to the west and north, usually associated with Sessile Oak, and is highly dependent on nest-boxes. This species is also in decline, the national population having fallen by 54% 1994–2008.

Two at Wyming Brook on 24th April represented the first, while along the coast, a male appeared at Sammy's Point on 26th, followed by three in the Spurn area on 29th. Singles then arrived at Flamborough and Spurn on 6th May, followed by another at Filey on 7th/8th, with two at Spurn on 8th/9th, and the last at Flamborough on 15th May.

West of Sheffield, there were three singing males at Blacka Moor, another singing at Strines and a pair present at Wyming Brook during the breeding season. Concerted ringing effort in the Agden Bog area trapped six broods. Near Barnsley, breeding occurred in the Upper Little Don Valley, Broomhead Wood and Cliff Wood.

There was a paucity of records near Halifax, with a singing male at Gibson Mill, Hardcastle Crags from 19th–27th May and a second male present on the latter date.

Further north, records were received from around Cray, Hubberholme, Grass Wood and Park Scar in Littondale within Upper Wharfedale. Further south, there were at least six singing males and three females present in Strid Wood. A study in the Washburn resulted in 58 young ringed from ten boxes, with seven of the breeding females ringed there over the previous two years. Elsewhere, a slow decline was apparent at Low Snowden, with 22 young ringed from four nests, while Dob Park only hosted two breeding females this year and none were recorded in Middleton Woods. In addition, a pair bred at Folly Hall Wood and St Ives again hosted a singing male. Two arrived in Upper Nidderdale, along Scar House Road on 26th April. Two were singing at Guisecliff on 9th May, two in Bryan's Wood, Dacre on 19th May and one singing in Grimes Gill on 22nd May. Seven pairs were subsequently recorded along the Scar House Road between Lofthouse and Newhouses. In addition, pairs bred on either side of the River Ure at West Tanfield/Hackfall Wood.

Autumn passage started with a single at Spurn on 11th August, Filey's first made landfall on 14th, when there were 14 at Spurn, and these were followed by eight at Flamborough on 23rd August. Easterlies in early September delivered six at Buckton and 51 at Spurn on 6th, with nine at Filey, 33 at Flamborough and 52 at Spurn the next day. Another pulse of arrivals late in September produced ten at Flamborough and five on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th, with 13 at Spurn on 29th. Late migrants appeared at Scalby Lodge on 9th October, two at Spurn on 10th and Buckton and Filey on 11th October. Underlining the importance of the predominantly easterly airflow in September, Spurn recorded its best autumn since 2004, with 343 bird/days.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* A

Amber list: scarce and local resident breeder; occasional irruptive immigrant

One hundred years ago this reedbed specialist was confined to East Anglia but although susceptible to cold weather, the population is thought to be stable. Largely resident, it is prone to eruptive or cold weather movements. The expansion of reedbeds along the banks of the Humber may encourage the population to spread from Blacktoft Sands, the core site.

Blacktoft Sands hosted 110–130 pairs, with a moderate breeding season producing between 250 and 350 young. The reduction in breeding success may have been due to the cold spring, with smaller first broods produced, possibly because of a lack of food. Although second brood success improved, third brood attempts stopped early, maybe due to dry conditions that again reduced insect availability. A wintering population of 250–300 was badly impacted by the heavy December snow. Many starved, during a spell when temperatures dipped to –18 degrees C, which froze the seed-heads on the reeds; less than 50 were thought to have survived through to the year-end. In addition, Faxfleet Ponds hosted four pairs. However, encouragingly, a pair also bred well inland at Fairburn Ings.

In the north-east, a male graced Coatham Marsh on 18th November, while a single on Castle Hill on 13th/14th October represented only the third coastal record for the Scarborough district. At Flamborough, a single flew over the Gorse Field on 13th October, followed by a pair in the Bay Brambles on 28th October. Presumably the latter relocated to Thornwick Bay and remained in the reedbed there until 14th November. A single proved elusive in the Warren/Canal area of Spurn on 17th October. Two appeared at nearby Beacon Ponds on 23rd October and relocated to the Canal the following day. Finally, the Canal hosted another on 25th October.

October records along the Humber included four adjacent to Welton Waters on 5th/6th, with at least two remaining on 18th and four along the drain at Paull Holme Strays. Five also visited Pulfin & High Eske on 23rd October, with four remaining the following day.

Inland, two arrived at Pit House West on 13th November, with four present the next day and they remained in residence until 29th November. A pair also lingered at the Calder Wetlands, adjacent to Pugney's CP, from 28th March until 2nd April and a single appeared at the same site on 17th October; these represented the first site records since 1991.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* A

Common resident except on high ground in west

BBS 68/216: +51% (+21) 1995–2009, +60% (+25) 2009–10

This species resumed its population increase after the setback of 2009, and was found in more BBS squares than ever this year.

The only significant flock prior to the breeding season consisted of 40 around Worsbrough CP on 3rd February.

In the north-east, the annual breeding survey at Flatts Lane CP located ten nests; one pair did not lay, seven nests were predated and only two pairs fledged young. Winterset hosted 25 territories, up from 13 the previous year, and Old Moor held 12 pairs, while 17 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, up a single pair from 2009.

Post-breeding season aggregations were larger and included 40 at Skelton Lake on 30th August, 50 ringed at Filey CP on 17th October, 50 at Potteric Carr on 2nd November, 50 along the River Ouse between York and Naburn on 20th November, 58 at Firsby Res on 23rd November, 65 in the Old Moor area on 27th November and 160 in several flocks around Elland GP on 30th November. During December, there were 40 at Bradway on 14th, 40 at Swillington Ings on 26th and 50 at Mytholmroyd on 31st.

At Spurn, there were just four records in spring, starting with one at Kew Villa on 19th March, one flew south on 10th April, one appeared at the Point on 23rd April and a single visited Kilnsea on 27th April. In the autumn, there were 104 bird/days at Spurn between 12th October and 15th November, all of which involved family parties, including 15 on 15th October, 12 on 17th and 25th October, 11 on 1st and 17 on 5th November.

Inland, visible migration included six that flew south-east at Deanhead on 7th October and nine that headed west with a Coal Tit over Swales Moor on 19th, while 11 flew south-west at Harden on 24th October.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 166/216: +3% (+2) 1995–2009, +31% (+20) 2009–10

BBS figures indicated a strong recovery after the breeding season problems of 2009. Most closely monitored sites reported an improvement on recent years, although there were only 37 pairs at Tophill Low, down six on the previous year. In the south–west, 13 nests in boxes at Langsett produced 96 eggs/young during May, while 51 in nearby Wharnccliffe Wood on 29th June indicated the strength of the local population. Fairburn Ings hosted 36 pairs, an increase of two on the previous year and a significant improvement on the 24 occupied territories in 2007. An annual study within Gledhow Valley Woods revealed that 225 young fledged from 28 successful nests, representing two more pairs and a higher fledging rate than the previous year. A similar study of 32 nest boxes in mid–Wharfedale produced 235 young at a ratio of 7.34/nest, again above the long–term average. In Hackfall Woods, 138 eggs were laid in 22 boxes, with 117 young eventually fledging, comparing well with the 83 fledging 12 months previously. At West Tanfield, 59 eggs were laid in seven boxes, with 48 young fledging and 51 young fledged from seven boxes at Fountains Abbey/Studley Royal.



Blue Tit •
Ray Scally

GREAT TIT *Parus major* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 142/216: +53% (+41) 1995–2009, –5% (+12) 2009–10

The long–term population increase was not sustained this year. Larger concentrations included 40 at Old Moor on 3rd January 26 at Listerdale on 17th January, 38 at Hardcastle Crag on 9th February and 50 in residence at High Batts NR during the first quarter. Overall there were encouraging signs from many of the long–term study areas and higher than average productivity at many sites. There were 31 pairs at Tophill Low, up from the previous year. A survey of 11 nest boxes in Langsett Woods produced 73 eggs/young during May. At Gledhow Valley Woods, 110 young hatched from 20 successful nests, one of which was double–brooded, and just one brood was lost after hatching; this compares well with 66 young in 2009 and 75 young in 2008. Fairburn Ings hosted 43 pairs, a substantial increase on the 25 pairs the previous year. A total of 30 monitored nests in Lower Wharfedale and the Washburn Valley produced 200 young, while a study of 27 nest boxes in mid–Wharfedale showed they fledged 188 young, at a ratio of 6.96/nest, well above average. Near Harrogate, 13 boxes were checked, with 115 eggs laid and 81 young fledged.

There were 40 at Spurn in early July, where seven pairs bred, with good productivity. The only appreciable flock in the latter period consisted of 27 at Swinsty in November.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* **A**
Common resident and passage migrant in small numbers.
BBS 54/216: +110% (+26) 1995–2009, –2% (+15) 2009–10

The nationally and locally increasing, sedentary race *britannicus* is thinly distributed throughout. Common wherever there are conifers, but frequently appears in gardens. The coniferous belt fringing the North Yorkshire Moors contains significant numbers, with 70 estimated in a 1km square within Wykeham Forest on 18th April. Further indications of population density, this time from the south–west, came with totals of 50 in the Little Don Valley on 2nd March, 44 in Wharnccliffe Wood on 29th June and 92 ringed in Lady Canning’s Plantation during the year, including 50 juveniles and 21 re–traps. Near Barnsley, 13 pairs bred in the Old Moor area, nine pairs held territories around Winterset and seven pairs bred at Hall Wood. Further north, Harlow Carr hosted 23 on 19th June. Spurn’s sole record of the spring related to a single at the Warren on 27th March that flew north towards Kew Villa. It was a better than average autumn at Spurn, with 32 bird/days and all related to the British race. Two were trapped and ringed at Kew Villa and were later seen at the Warren on 22nd September, followed by two again at Kew Villa on 30th September. Records were received on ten days in October, including six on 5th. A single at Buckton on 27th September represented only the second ever site record, followed by another on 3rd October. Small numbers were recorded during visible migration studies, with 12 heading south at Deanhead on 22nd September, eight moved south–west at Harden on 25th September, along the coast, seven flew south at Speeton on 2nd October, while ten headed south–east at Deanhead on the Pennines on 7th October.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and declining resident, scarce in the east. BBS 4/216
Nationally the British sedentary race *kleinschmidtii* of this boreal Palearctic species has decreased by 73% 1995–2009.

In the north–east, a pair bred at Margrove Ponds, with up to three attending the feeders at Scaling Dam. The Carrs inland of Scarborough remain a stronghold, with odd pairs present throughout the district, with records from 11 sites, including six in Langdale Forest on 23rd March and eight along the River Hertford between Flotmanby Carr and Flixton on 28th October. More unusual, were singles ringed at Buckton on 14th August and re–trapped on 2nd and another at Filey CP on 8th September. In the Hull Valley, a single appeared near the Leven Canal on 8th March, with two between Kiplingcotes Farm and South Dalton Park Farm on 13th March. A pair bred at Tophill Low and singles were noted sporadically at Pulfin & High Eske. Finally, a single visited a Beverley garden on 23rd September. Near York, pairs were present during the breeding season at Bubwith, Foggathorpe and Sand Hutton, with two at Sheriff Hutton Park late on and singles at Allerthorpe Common, Askham Bog, Castle Howard, Dunnington, Fulford GC and Wheldrake Ings. North Cave hosted two on 15th August, while there were four pairs in residence at Saltmarshe Delph. There were records in every month at Southfield Res except January, February & May, with two present on four dates. At least two pairs bred on Thorne Moors, with 11 present during October and present throughout on Hatfield Moors, with records received from three discrete areas of the site and several pairs thought to be in residence. Noted regularly at Thorpe Marsh, although there were no reports during May, with a maximum of five on 9th January, while two/three pairs were located around Finningley and at least two pairs at Potteric Carr. The Sheffield area remained a stronghold, with juveniles ringed at Blackburn Meadows, High Hazel, Tankersley, Shirebrook Valley and at Woodhouse. Family parties were observed at Beighton, Pit–House West, Thrybergh and St Michael’s Cemetery, while four were singing in Shirebrook Valley, two at both Firsby Res and Harthill Res and singles singing at Kilnhurst Brickyard, Meersbrook Allotments, Totley Bents and Stubbin. Bred at Winterset, where a record 15 pairs were located on territory, the previous highest being 12 pairs in 2003. Two pairs raised at least four young at Old Moor, with another five pairs in the area, and at least two pairs bred at Carlton Marsh. Three territories were located at Wilthorpe Marsh, two in Sheephouse Wood and singles at Midhopestones and Bolsterstone. Single pairs also raised young at Edderthorpe Flash and at Goldthorpe. Two juveniles were also caught and ringed at Tankersley during June, while further north, Pugney’s CP also hosted four pairs. There were records from 16 sites near Huddersfield, with an estimated 20 pairs present. The vast majority came from the east of the recording area, especially around Horbury and pairs bred at Horbury Wyke and Royd Moor Res and probably at Ingbirchworth Res, where six were present on 8th July. Near Halifax, there were two near Pike End on 19th May and another duo at Scammonden on 23rd August. In the Leeds area, most records came from Rodley NR during the winter and around Swillington Ings throughout the year. Family parties were also noted at Fleet Plantation, Healaugh Ponds, Lemonroyd and Lowther Lake, while five pairs bred at Fairburn Ings.

Near Bradford, singles appeared at Riddlesden on 2nd January, Haverah Park on 8th April, another visited a Menston garden during August and a single attended the feeding station at Otley Wetland from 19th–27th December. Further north, a single appeared at Stainburn on 20th February and Scargill hosted two on 8th April.

There were several records from the Harrogate district, with a pair at Staveley NR fledging six young. Elsewhere, two were in Haverah Park on 8th April, two at Hay-a-Park GP on 17th October, with a single along Ings Lane, Bishop Monkton on 7th December. A single on Tarn Fen on 1st July represented the fourth record for the Malham area and the first since 1989.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident, scarce in south-east and south-west. BBS 4/216

This Palearctic species prefers mature broad-leaved woodland. There has been a smaller national decrease 1995–2009 of 21% compared to the previous species, but it had identical statistics locally in BBS this year.

South of the Tees, there were up to two pairs at Skelton Castle, while the wooded areas from Saltergill to Weary Bank and around Saltburn, remain favoured. Fewer were reported in the second half of the year, but included the first site record at Boulby on 28th September and one that visited feeders at Scaling Dam during October. It is considered widespread in small numbers around Scarborough, with records from Stoupe Bank, Potter Brompton Carr, Forge Valley, Peasholm Park, Thornton-le-Dale, Northstead Manor Gardens, Cloughton, Hayburn Wyke and Scalby Beck. Unusually, Castle Hill hosted a single on 10th October. Church Ravine, Filey hosted a single on 11th October and one visited feeders at Hunmanby Gap during November and December.

A breeding season survey of woodland on the 4000 hectare Warter Estate, east of Pocklington, revealed 67% of the ancient oak woodland through to shelter belt beech woods held the species; there were seven records of family parties foraging with other tits. In the Hull Valley, breeding was suspected around Raywell, Drewton and Weedley and 13 accompanied tit flocks near High Hunsley on 29th November. More unusual, a single visited Spurn on 28th June.

In the south-west, Roche Abbey attracted four on 27th October, while two at Bretton Park on 5th March represented the first record in the Huddersfield recording area since 1989.

It was a poor year in the Bardsey to East Keswick area near Leeds, with just five records. Elsewhere, a single appeared at the Thorp Arch retail complex on 30th January, with notable records in the Lower Aire Valley in Eshald Lane Plantation, Oulton from 19th January until 7th February, on feeders by Fishpond Lock on 23rd February and two by Woodlesford Goit on 3rd April. Up to two were in the Wharfe Valley between Carthick Wood and Ox Close Wood during March. A single at Lindley Wood Res on 6th May frequented suitable breeding habitat. Up to three were in the Aberford–Parlington–Becca areas during November and a single returned to Eshald Lane Plantation on 15th and 26th December.

After a blank 2009, the Bradford area recorded up to two throughout at Haverah Park, with another at Blubberhouses on 13th October. Additional records within the Wharfedale area, included singles at Leathley Mill on 10th February, two at Barden Moor on 17th March and two at Stainburn on 21st March. A single at Snaygill Ings on 16th April represented the first site record. Up to 25 remained in residence at High Batts NR, with 20 ringed there during the year, whilst there were five in Harlow Carr Gardens on 1st March, up to four at Farnham GP in August/September and four at Staveley NR on 17th September.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common resident, scarce in south-east. BBS 18/216

A very sedentary West Palearctic species that is increasing nationally. Casual observations and BBS suggest it has been expanding its range in the county, but has yet to colonise the south-east.

Pairs were present during the breeding season at Saltburn Valley Gardens, Skelton Castle, Guisborough, Hutton Village, Stewart Park and Errington Wood. Further south, it remains scarce in Holderness, where a single visited a garden feeder near Hornsea Mere from 2nd–21st March, another appeared at Burton Bushes on 11th, a single visited North Ferriby on 23rd March and, finally, one returned to the aforementioned site near Hornsea on 19th November. A single in Kilnsea churchyard on 23rd June represented the seventh record for Spurn.

In the south-west, Bretton Lakes attracted 13 on 17th January, with numbers increasing to a record 20 on 1st March and there were nine in Worsbrough Valley on 14th February. Barnsley’s highest ever number was again broken, with 20 in Wentworth Castle Gardens at Stainborough on 3rd April. Pairs bred in at least 13 areas within Barnsley, including 12 pairs at Bretton Lakes. Fourteen were in the Worsbrough Valley on 30th October, 11 at Bretton Lakes on 13th November and ten in Wortley Park on 30th December. Records continue to increase around both the Huddersfield and Halifax areas, where recorded from 49 and 38 sites respectively, including at Hey Green, a further sign of range expansion.

The population appears to be increasing in the Washburn Valley, with records from new sites and an apparent increase in the suburbs. Bradford’s best tally related to 13 at Middleton Woods in April, with eight in Norwood Bottom between Lindley Wood and Folly Hall in the same month. Nest boxes in mid-Wharfedale hosted five broods, with 35 young subsequently ringed. Near Harrogate, the best count related to seven at Harlow Carr on 9th December, while numbers declined at Malham Tarn after the severe winter, down from five pairs to three.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* **A**

Fairly common resident, absent from higher ground. BBS 21/216

The sedentary British population of the race *britannica* is may be slightly decreasing in the county, matching national trends, with occasional migrants of the nominate form in autumn on the coast. Numbers were down nationally this year.

Maxima during the first half of the year included eight at Farnley Lake in March, seven at Bretton Lakes on 2nd March, six in Gleadless Valley on 28th March, six along the River Ouse between York and Naburn from April through until October and five along Norwood Bottom in May.

One of the more significant records from the York area referred to a brood of six ringed at Skipwith Common. Four pairs bred in Hall Wood, Sheffield, while a record 11 pairs held territory in the Winterset area. There were sightings from 42 sites near Huddersfield, including a pair that bred in a garden nestbox at Slaithwaite. Two pairs at Malham Tarn area represented a decline and, like the aforementioned species, presumed to result from the inclement winter conditions.

Post-breeding, Worsbrough Valley attracted five on 25th September and five frequented Swinsty Hall in November, Westwood Country Park on 26th December and Harlow Carr on 28th.

An above average year at Spurn, with juveniles trapped on 31st July and 11th August, with one present from 18th–21st August, and further singles on 9th September and 15th October. In addition, nearby Easington hosted two on 14th October.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **A**

3,2,18,7,9

Red list: rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but are more likely to be of continental origin.

Unusually, the first appeared well inland at Healey Mills NR on 20th May, located singing at the top of a birch tree and represented the first record for the Huddersfield area (JHam).

There were six noted during the spring around Spurn, starting with an elusive adult male at Kew Villa which sang on a few occasions and was seen briefly on 24th May (DJSt: MO *et al.*). The next day a ‘green individual’ was disturbed from the Canal bank and eventually headed off towards the Warren (RJB).

At Flamborough, a single flew in off the sea over the Golf Course on 27th May (PC).

The following day a ‘green individual’ appeared at the Warren before flying towards Kew Villa, where it was heard singing for a short while (SE *et al.*). Another in similar plumage was located at Sammy’s Point on 30th May (RWi).

Two were at the Point, Spurn on 3rd June, with one remaining the next day (RJB: PCo: AAH). Finally, at the opposite end of the county, an immature male spent most of 11th June at Cattersley Gill, it frequently sang and showed well, before flying off towards Brotton at dusk (MAB *et al.*).



Nuthatch ●
Ray Scally

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius senator* A 0,0,1,0,1
Vagrant; one previous record
It breeds from south Siberia east to north Japan and through east China. Nominate *cristatus* winters in the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia.
A first-winter appeared on the edge of the Golf Course/Northcliff at Flamborough during the late afternoon of 7th November (B&JAB: CCT *et al.*). Feeding off fence-posts, it was photographed and showed well, but there was no further sign the next morning in very strong winds. The second record for both Flamborough and Yorkshire, it arrived only two years after the first in September 2008.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* A 14,11,46,9,25
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce passage migrant; formerly bred
This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa.
A female appeared at Spurn's Walker Butts (MBre *et al.*) and a male made landfall at Bempton on 23rd May (MJ *et al.*), with the former still present the next day. Well inland, a female was a surprise discovery at North Duffield Carrs on 24th May (AWh *et al.*). More typically, a male then graced Old Fall, Flamborough on 26th May, with a female in the nearby Gorse Field two days later (RAB: PAL *et al.*).
On 1st June, a female at Spurn at post 40 moved to the Potato Fields, where it was joined by a male (GED: JHe *et al.*) and a female spent the day at Middle Camp (PWr *et al.*). A male appeared west of Willerby, on the Carrs inland of Scarborough, on 2nd June (AFo *et al.*), while at Spurn, a female stayed at the Narrows on 4th/5th June (IS *et al.*). Inland, a male appeared adjacent to Broomhill Flash on 7th June (JTh *et al.*), with another at Hebden Beck, Upper Wharfedale, on the same day (JAP). The last of spring turned up at Spurn, with a female at Canal Hedge on 12th June (SGw) and later in the day, a male discovered along the Canal (JMT).

In the autumn, a juvenile remained in the Triangle at Spurn on 14th/15th August (ICW *et al.*). Further north, a juvenile stayed in the Gorse Field, Flamborough from 14th–18th August (RAB *et al.*), with a second juvenile in Bay Brambles from 18th–21st (PAL *et al.*). Inland of Bridlington, a juvenile appeared by the B1253, one mile west of Rudston, on 21st August (DAPW *et al.*). Spurn then hosted another juvenile at Wire Dump from 2nd–5th September. A few days later, a juvenile made landfall at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 8th September (JM: SW *et al.*). Spurn struck lucky again when a juvenile spent the day at the Narrows on 21st September (IC: PVI *et al.*), followed by one of similar age at Holmes Cut, Flamborough and a male at South Gare on 27th, with the latter remaining until 14th October (AK *et al.*). A juvenile appeared at Speeton Manor Farm on 29th September (KC) and, finally, a juvenile was discovered at the Point, Spurn on 10th October (JL *et al.*).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* A 3,7,21,13,53
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain.

Compared to recent decades, the numbers recorded in 2010 were unprecedented, with nothing similar since 1976.
A single re-appeared on Thorne Moors on 12th January and remained until 30th. West of Scarborough, the valleys fringing the southern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors proved productive, with a single at Dalby Snout on 6th March and two then remained in residence within Langdale Forest from 7th–17th March. In the Harrogate area, one showed well at Brearton on 8th March. RAF Fylingdales then hosted a single on 7th April, with a migrant appearing at the Tip, Filey on 9th April. Finally, a single lingered on the North Yorkshire Moors at Stony Rigg from 13th–20th April.

An impressive autumn influx began on 27th September, when singles made landfall at Filey, Buckton, Flamborough (still present in the Gorse Field the next day), Grimston and Spurn Point, with the latter in residence until 4th October. Further arrivals the next day, included one at Boulby, one south of Easington Gas Terminal and another in Spurn's Church Field, with the last staying until 30th; it was then joined by a second individual on 29th. Other arrivals on 29th included two at Flamborough, with one accompanying the original bird in the Gorse Field and a single at Wold Farm; these three were then responsible for various records around the Headland until 4th October. The final new arrival in September made landfall at Grimston on 30th and stayed until 1st October.
A single lingered at Paull Holme Strays from 2nd–4th October, with others at Sammy's Point on 2nd, Sunk Island/Stone Creek from 2nd–5th and another at Wawne on 3rd. At Spurn, a single over the Warren on 4th was considered fresh in and it eventually joined the individual in residence at the Point. A maximum of four stayed around the Langdale Forest area from 6th October until 7th November.

Another pulse of arrivals in the second week of October included a single at Middle Hedge, Spurn from 8th–10th. A lone individual was located at Easington Gas Terminal on 9th October, with three at Flamborough the same day, at South Landing, the Gorse Field and Old Fall, and two appeared on South Gare. The individual at Old Fall lingered until 13th, with one staying at South Gare until 10th and the other in residence until 13th. New arrivals on 10th, included singles at Easington, Hunt Cliffe and, away from the coast, at Hag Dyke, Kettlewell.
Migrants continued to filter inland, with a single dropping in briefly at Healey Mills NR, Huddersfield on 12th October, with one at Isle of Skye Quarry, Huddersfield briefly later the same afternoon. The next day, Pulfin & High Eske recorded its first ever. High Easington Moor attracted a single on 15th, with another at Thorne Moors from 17th October until 7th November. Nearby, Hatfield Moors hosted a single on 20th October, while Blacka Moor attracted an immature that remained from 28th until 6th November.
Along the coast, a single was caught and ringed at Spurn on 1st November, with another appearing the same day at Thornton Moor Res. Wharnccliffe Chase then hosted a single on 13th. Obviously fresh in, a single at the Fog Station, Flamborough on 24th November soon relocated to Old Fall.
In December, one stayed at Storiths, near Bradford, from 4th–14th, with another at Widdale, west of Hawes, from 15th, which subsequently stayed into the New Year.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* A 0,1,3,2,2
Rare migrant; 35 previous records
Breeds from France and north-west Africa east to southern Iran, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara.
A first-summer female at South Landing on 15th May proved mobile, before relocating to Head Farm on 17th/18th May, and surprisingly represented only the second record for Flamborough (ABa: CCT *et al.*).
Filey's fourth ever appeared at the Tip on 29th May and remained in the same area until 31st, often utilizing the many posts to forage for bees (J&TGD *et al.*).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* A
Fairly common resident, and scarce migrant, absent from high ground. BBS 35/216
Population thought to be stable. A combination of its secretive nature allied to its preference for large oak woodlands tends to restrict records although it has also benefitted from commercial afforestation. Lack of habitat means it is scarcer at the coast, but irruptive movements sometimes occur in autumn.
Although relatively widespread in the south and west, it is much scarcer in the east, with Wykeham Forest one of the strongholds, where there was a peak count of eight at Highwood Brow on 16th April. It remained scarce in the Hull Valley, but there was an increase in reports during October and November, with a best of four at Beswick.
There were also three regularly at both Thorne Moors and Thorpe Marsh and records throughout at Southfield Res, where there were 15 on 28th March. There were widespread records around Sheffield, including 12 at Firsby Res on 20th October. It was described as fairly common, but thinly distributed, near Barnsley, with seven territorial pairs in the Winterset area. Flocks included 12 in the Worsbrough Valley on 25th September, ten at Bolton Ings on 31st October, nine at Bretton Lakes on 11th and ten in the Worsbrough Valley on 31st December.
Near Huddersfield, there were eight at Honley on 17th January, nine at Bretton Park on 15th November and eight at Denby Dale on 26th December and recorded from 45 sites across Halifax, including 12 at Elland Park Wood on 19th October and 5th December.



Increases were noted in suburban gardens around Bardford, while further increases were also recorded near Leeds, with peaks of eight in both Gledhow Valley Woods on 20th April and at Rodley NR on 19th September and seven in Swillington Park on 2nd October. Although regular around Fairburn Ings, this was the first year lacking a breeding pair. It remained a fairly common resident both in the Harrogate area and Lower Wharfedale, but is extremely rare in the upper part of the Dale, highlighted by two in Hawkswick on 14th October that represented an exceptional local record.

Along the coast, singles appeared at Old Fall, Flamborough on 14th May and on the Outer Head, Flamborough on 18th October, with Spurn's sole record on 27th April.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* **A**

Common resident. BBS 108/216: -27% (-3) 1995-2009, +1% (+2) 2009-10

After massive increases since the mid-1960s, the trend in shown by BBS appears to be downwards. Nevertheless, this species has become well-adapted to urban and suburban life. It is widespread in the county except from managed moorlands in the west where it is still regarded as a pest and where nesting habitat is unavailable.

This species is generally under-recorded, apart from large roost counts, making an assessment of population trends difficult. In the north, there was a decrease in the Guisborough area, but 88 roosted at Filey Dams on 10th February, while described as a common breeder at Flamborough, with peaks of 26 on 23rd March and 21 on 18th December.

It was widespread and abundant in the Hull Valley, with 16 at Kingswood in February. Thorne Moors hosted 41 in January and Potteric Carr 32 on 23rd January. In the Rotherham area, 131 roosted at Catcliffe Flash on 13th February, with widespread records from Sheffield, including 42 in the city centre in January, over 60 roosting at Blackburn Meadows NR on 20th February, 30 at Ecclesfield on 13th February, 40 at Bole Hill on 5th November and 40 at Little Sheffield in November. Maxima from Barnsley included 70 around Old Moor on 3rd January, 60 roosted at Carlton Marsh on 20th January and 58 at Old Moor on 4th October, including 38 mobbing an unfortunate Hedgehog. At Pugney's CP, 40 roosted on the Calder Wetlands on 12th February.

The largest flocks in the Huddersfield and Halifax districts referred to 20 at Shelley Woodhouse on 1st January, 23 at Meltham SW on 28th March, 21 at Netherthong on 11th October, 45 roosting at Elland GP on 16th December, 30 at Pellon on 8th January and 30 at Ogden on 21st February. Peak counts around Leeds related to 30 at both Gledhow Valley Woods and Yeadon Tarn, with 45 at Rodley NR on 26th January. At Fairburn Ings, 15 pairs bred, with regular flocks of up to 40 seen during the year. In the autumn, several attempted to migrate south at Spurn, but none appeared to leave the Point.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* **A**

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 125/216: +44% (+44) 1995-2009, -13% (-5) 2009-10

The resident British race *spermologus* is particularly numerous in North Yorkshire and on upland margins in South and West Yorkshire, and the long-term population increase has been particularly notable in the region.

In the east, increasing numbers roosted at Cayton Cliffs, including a record 650 on 7th November, with 120 leaving Filey to roost at the aforementioned site on 1st November, while a roost at Reighton contained 240 on 14th June. There were several massive counts from Tophill Low, with 6000 on 15th January, increasing to 11,000 on 17th February and 2200 still in mid March. The best counts later in the year at Tophill included 3600 on 1st October, 6000 on 31st October and 3600 on 12th December.

Sheffield maxima involved 800 at Totley Hall Fields on 24th January and 1200 at Rivelin Valley on 5th September, with notable counts near Barnsley including 1051 on 10th July flying to roost at Deepcar/Bitholmes Wood, with 1,000 in the Haw Park roost in late October. Widespread near Huddersfield, the largest totals were 600 roosting at Ryburn on 20th November and 650 in the Pexwood roost on 26th December. In the Bradford area, reports of passage included a total of 970 heading over Oxenhope during the autumn and 950 moving through Caldene during the same period. Elsewhere, notable winter counts included 150 at Shipley Glen, 160 over Otley and 650 in the Cullingworth Fields. In the Leeds area, up to 300 roosted near Yeadon Tarn in the early months, but there were far fewer in the latter part of the year, with the only notable total relating to 650 around Eccup Res on 10th February and 300 at Rodley NR on 21st July. Peak counts in the Harrogate area included 500 at North Parks Farm, Ripon Parks on 10th February, 300 at Pateley Bridge on 2nd March, 350 in Colsterdale on 31st July, 500 at Gouthwaite Res on 12th September and 250 at Staveley NR on 21st October.

Spring passage at Spurn involved 156 south between 20th March and 5th June, including 21 on 26th March, whilst autumn passage was very light, with only 30 heading south. An individual showing features of the 'Nordic' race appeared at Wire Dump on 10th October, with three at the Point the next day.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* **A**

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 121/216: -63% (-3) 1995-2009, -8% (-5) 2008-09

The local populations of this Eurasian species are mostly resident, but form communal winter roosts. The long-term population trend is worryingly downwards.

Peak counts near Scarborough included 400 at Seamer Tip on 28th August and 2000 roosted near Cayton Cliff on 7th November. In Filey, a breeding survey located 39 occupied nests in Glen Gardens, 75 in the Reighton area and 41 at Primrose Valley. The largest roost in the Hull Valley occurred at Tophill Low, with 1100 on 15th January and 4000 on 17th February, with breeding records including 48 occupied nests at Watton and 38 at Woodmansey, High Eske.

A full survey was undertaken in the Barnsley area, with 2260 nests located at 63 sites, representing a 13% decline since a comparable survey in 1999, and included 125 nests at Thurlstone, 230 at Hooper College and 105 at Hemingfield. Near Huddersfield, surveyed sites contained two nests at Bretton Park, eight at Crosland Moor, seven at Grange Moor, 19 and nine active nests near Hepworth, nine at Marsden, five and 12 nests near New Mill, 60 at Shepley and six at Thornhill Lees. Further north, there were relatively few large winter flocks around Bradford, with 250 at Cullingworth in January the only record to exceed 40 and only three rookeries were surveyed, with 13 adults at Pitty Beck, 20 nests at Middleton Wood and 33 nests at John o' Gaunt's Res. Two new rookeries were discovered near Leeds, with 27 nests at Bardsey and 15 at East Keswick and numbers peaked at 450 at the pig farm on Collingham Moor in June and 288 at Swillington Ings in early August.

A flock of 467 at Bubwith on 13th February represented the maximum near York. In the Harrogate area, Deanswood, Littlethorpe and High Batts NR each contained approximately 60 active nests, with a further 30 at Haverah Park. Breeding colonies were widespread in Wharfedale, with large numbers at Grimwith in late summer, attracted to the food put out for the thousands of released Red-legged Partridges and Pheasants. Further north, there were no records from the upper part of Wharfedale and sightings were scarce on the Bolton Abbey Estate, while 80 pairs bred at Malham Tarn.

Light passage was recorded at Spurn in both spring and autumn, including 476 headed south between 16th February and 28th May, with a maximum of 45 on 27th March. In the autumn, 181 flew south between 4th September and 14th November, with a peak of 28 on 13th October. There were also a lot of U-turning birds, including totals of 57 on 8th and 50 on 14th September.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 188/216: +75% (-6) 1995-2009, +22% (-3) 2009-10

Has become one of the county's most widespread birds, possibly due to a reduction in keeping activity, and increasingly noted in urban areas, but is still largely absent from managed moorland areas. Large gatherings are not uncommon. A significant increase was noted in 2010, and it is now the third most abundant species in BBS surveys.

Very few detailed breeding records were received, with most records relating to flocks outside the breeding season, which included 40 at Seamer Tip on 28th August and 80 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 17th September. It was reported to be one of the commonest species in the Hull Valley, noted regularly on Thorne Moors, including a peak of 80 in August and Potteric Carr hosted 50 on 7th September.

Notable counts from around Sheffield included over 50 at Graves Park on 21st March and 50 at Blacka Moor on 22nd April, with 42, including 37 moving east, at Ulley CP on 23rd October. Numbers in the Barnsley area included 90 mobbing a Marsh Harrier at Old Moor on 9th August, 66 near Wombwell Ings on 22nd August and 30 in the Worsbrough Valley on 23rd November. Larger totals near Huddersfield involved 46 at Scammonden Res on 21st January, 110 on 25th January and 150 on 5th August at Dewsbury SW, 71 in Longwood Valley on 28th February, 70 at Honley on 6th September and 140 at Grimescar Valley on 16th October. Immediately to the north, there were several large aggregations around Halifax, with 180 on 6th February at Swales Moor and 140 at High Royd on 21st March, while an all white individual remained at Ogden throughout the year. In the Leeds area, numbers peaked at 105 at Rodley NR on 10th February, while larger counts elsewhere included 350 by the pig farm on Collingham Moor in June, over 60 at Eccup Res on 19th March and 75 there on 16th October.

There were several northwesterly movements along the cliffs at Saltburn in spring, with 33 on 17th April and 41 on 24th April. Spring passage at Flamborough included 82 on 15th and 62 on 27th March, 46 on 10th April, 26 on 14th May and 32 the next day. At Spurn, 251 flew south between 3rd March and 23rd May; passage peaked in April, with 24 on 9th, 30 on 24th and 29 on 26th April. Autumn passage was light, with 23 heading south between 21st September and 18th November.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* **A** 3,9,19,8,14

Rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory and no doubt account for sightings on the east coast.

The year opened with one at Flamborough on 7th January. Spring passage started with another at Flamborough on 14th March (CCT), with the next at Newbiggin, Filey on 18th April (J&TGD *et al.*). May proved to be spring's busiest month, with a single at Flamborough on 1st preceding one at Long Nab near Scarborough on 2nd (CGB *et al.*), singles at the Point, Spurn on 10th/11th (PCo *et al.*) and another south at Spurn on 16th May (JC).

In autumn, one in the Triangle at Spurn on 30th September later flew south (RJS *et al.*), with another at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 6th (DJW) and again there on 12th October (DM *et al.*). A single flew south as far as the Warren at Spurn, before turning back north on 10th and 11th October (AAH *et al.*) and the same headed south from the Point the next day. It or another then flew south as far as the Warren at Spurn on 14th. Further north, a single appeared at Osgodby on 20th October (JH), before another U-turned at the Narrows at Spurn on 22nd October (AR). The last coastal record related to a single at Flamborough on 3rd November. In the Yorkshire Dales, a single appeared above Hebden on 20th November (BT) and a hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow once again spent the winter between Hawes and Ribbleshead.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* **A**

Scarce but increasing resident in west, rare in east. BBS 7/216

This Holarctic species used to breed widely until persecution began 200 years ago. Retains a foothold in the west and recently there has been an increase records in the Yorkshire Dales, and the population may be very slowly expanding eastwards.

A minimum of 14 confirmed and two probable pairs bred, with a scattering of non-breeding records away from upland areas.

Near Scarborough, two flew south over Sand Dale, Dalby Forest on 1st May, one headed over Woodend Museum, Scarborough on 11th May, another appeared over Wykeham Forest Raptor Viewpoint on 10th July and one graced Willerby and Binnington Carrs on 31st August. At North Cave, one appeared east of the reserve on 18th April, two headed over the site on 17th May, followed by a single on 25th May and four flew over Potteric Carr on 16th September.

In the Rotherham area, singles were seen over Sandbeck on 8th January, Silverwood Pit Top on 25th September, over Upper Whiston on 28th September, followed by two at South Anston on 27th November and two west over King's Wood Corner the next day. There were 28 records from the Sheffield area, including two pairs in the Burbage Valley in late April and peak counts of 12 at Redmires on 24th October and nine at Upper Commons on 24th November. There were numerous sightings of up to two from various upland locations around Barnsley, notably from the Little Don Valley between Midhopestones and Deepcar, Harden, Winscar, Canyards, Barmings and Upper Commons. Maxima in Barnsley included five at Langsett on 17th October, four over Ewden Beck on 24th and three at Ewden Height on 27th October, seven over Harden on 6th November and nine the Margery Hill area on 24th November. However, only two records received from the lowlands in Barnsley, with one in Stainborough Park on 21st September and the first record for Old Moor, a single over the Visitor Centre on 15th October. Two pairs bred on pylons west of Barnsley, one pair at Wharnccliffe Heath and another fledged at least two young at Underbank.

There were regular sightings of up to four around Huddersfield, with nesting pairs at two upland and one lowland site. Records increased slightly in the Halifax area, with 96 records from 34 sites. Although predominantly from upland areas, there were records from the lowlands at Fixby on 24th January, Lee Mount on 2nd July and Shibden Valley on 11th/12th December. There was only one confirmed breeding record near Halifax, of a pair fledging four young, with an additional two probable breeding pairs. The majority of records near Bradford came from the three main areas of Barden, Oxenhope and Rombalds Moor, including up to six at Barden Scale on several dates, while a pair bred in the Bradford Metropolitan District for the first time and fledged two young.

In the Leeds area, singles visited Harewood Park on 22nd April and 14th November, one flew upriver at Lindley Wood Res on 5th May and two appeared there on 20th September. Further east, there were seven records at Fairburn Ings and one over Beal Carrs on 22nd November and 3rd December. However, there were only two records in the York area, with singles at Clifton Park on 6th February and 2nd June.

Records increased from around Harrogate, with two occasionally between Heyshaw Moor and Upper Nidderdale. There were regular sightings of non-breeding adults in the Yorkshire Dales throughout, particularly in the north, with a notable flock of 16 on 24th August near Hawes. The number of breeding pairs remained relatively stable, with 25 nest sites checked, ten occupied and 21 young fledged from seven successful attempts.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: abundant but decreasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 125/216: -59% (-46) 1995-2009, +19% (-2) 2009-10

British and north European populations have been declining and it has also been decreasing steadily in Yorkshire, so the increase noted this year is welcome.

The roost in Scarborough contained 4450 in January, 4000 in February and 3000 in March, whilst later in the year there were 2000 in November and 2100 in December, with a further 2500 roosting on Cayton Cliff in November. A count of 800 at Filey CP presumably related to a flock about to depart for continental Europe. It was also a good spring passage at Spurn, with 14,738 south between 18th February and 8th April, with notable counts of 3500 on 22nd March, 1735 on 23rd and 1610 on 28th March and totals of 5500 grounded on 24th March and 6500 similarly the next day. On the Humber, up to 630 congregated at Sunk Island in October, with 1700 noted in November.

Around Sheffield, there were 400 near Aston on 11th January, 550 at Firsby Res on 31st March, 475 at Redmires Res on 17th October and 800 at Orgreave Lakes on 11th November. A common and widespread breeder in the Barnsley area, in addition, up to 1000 roosted at Winterset on 8th September and 2000 roosted at Old Moor on 12th November.

There was a welcome increase in records in the Huddersfield area and numerous counts of up to 150 around Halifax, with larger flocks of 200 at Queensbury on 5th February, 500 at Cold Edge on 6th June, 500 at Jay House Lane on 26th August and 200 at Soil Hill on 27th August.

In the Leeds area, up to 500 congregated around Yeadon Tarn in the first week of January, but most then left the area during cold weather. Later in the year, a post-breeding flock of 500 visited Swillington Ings on 15th July, 600 appeared at Leventhorpe plateau in mid-October and 800 assembled at Yeadon Tarn from August through until early November. A roost at Swillington Ings on 31st October contained 2200, while further east, Fairburn Ings hosted 700 in mid-October.

Numbers were reported to be stable in Wharfedale, but the large post-breeding flocks that historically featured on the Dales' moorland are now a thing of the past, with a meagre 1000 at Malham Tarn the best. Nearby, up to 2000 featured near Skipton in September, increasing to 3500 in November. In the Harrogate area, Staveley hosted 1000 on 15th June. However, Nosterfield again attracted the main roost, where there were 10,000 on 21st June, 50,000 on 7th July, 70,000 on 3rd October, 50,000 on 21st November and 40,000 on 27th November.

Once again there were some notable visible migration counts, including 6159 west on 25 dates at Winterset between 2nd October and 16th November. The first major movement through inland sites was witnessed on 17th October, with 1646 heading south at Caldene Fields, 565 north over Oxenhope and 392 west over Harden. Smaller movements in the last week of October involved 241 south at Caldene Fields and 164 north-east at Harden on 24th, 388 south-west over Harden on 25th and 800 through Old Moor on 27th. November opened with a significant influx, with 2639 north over Oxenhope, 1464 north-west in two hours over Langsett and 839 west over Harden on 1st. However, the largest movement took place on 7th November and included 2955 west at Winterset, 2894 north over Oxenhope, 2000 west (and an additional 500 roosting) at Old Moor, 1156 west over Harden, 675 over Redmires Res and 541 south at Caldene Fields; this influx was also noted along the coast. The final appreciable 'vis mig' took place on 9th November, when 471 flew north over Oxenhope.

In autumn, small parties were noted coming in off the sea from mid-October, but numbers peaked on 7th November, when 5000 came in off at Spurn and 3777 at Flamborough. At Spurn, the number of grounded individuals was generally less than 800 during October and November, except for 1200 on 15th October. Visible passage was fairly quiet, with 3450 south between 9th September and 23rd November, with 580 on 5th and 640 on 8th October the highest totals.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* **A**

1,0,2,0,1

Rare visitor in spring and summer; 72 previous records (73 birds)

This irruptive species breeds from south Ukraine and central Turkey east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, occasionally breeding in south-east Europe. Occasional overshooting adults occur in the county in late spring/early summer and post-breeding juveniles in autumn.

The sole record related to a juvenile that was photographed during the course of its stay in the garden of Providence House in Easington from 16th-18th October.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: abundant resident but has Decemberreased
BBS 99/216: -4% (-18) 1995-2009, +33% (+13) 2009-10

Closely associated with older built-up areas and farms. BBS results suggest a halt to the long-term Decline for the second successive year, and a significant increase from 2009.

In the east, the peak count at Filey related to 55 in Glen Gardens on 24th May and Kelk hosted a flock of 50 in September. One of the most widely reported species in the Hull Valley, there were totals of 70 in the Kingswood area near Hull, 42 at Victoria Dock, Hull and 60 Skipsea in September.

Notable records from the York area included over 100 at Heslington on 20th August, the highest count for five years and 60 at East Cottingham in late June. There were widespread records from around the city itself, including 200 at Thornton on 28th September and 150 at Wilberfoss on 2nd December.

Around Sheffield the biggest flocks related to 50 at Ulley CP on 27th June, 50 in Ulley village on 18th September and 40 at Eastwood on 22nd September. In the Barnsley area, the peak count early on referred to 80 at Old Moor on 3rd January, while breeding records included 30 pairs in the Old Moor area, mostly around Broomhill Village and at least 25 pairs in Goldthorpe. In the latter part of the year, counts in Worsbrough Valley included 50 at Barrow Farm throughout August, 41 in Stocksbridge town centre on 8th August and 30 at Wigfield Farm at Worsbrough on 25th September. Around 30 were around farm buildings on Wharnccliffe Chase on 15th November and 30 were in Wortley Park on 30th December.

There were records from over 30 sites around Huddersfield, with highs of up to 50 throughout the year at Meltham Millmoor, up to 30 in a garden at Lockwood, 35 present around New Mill, 45 at Dalton and 30 at Shelley/Far Bank in late June. Although a decline was apparent in the Halifax area, with records from 30 scattered sites, there were good numbers across Leeds, with over 100 at Cross Gates, Cross Green, Drighlington, Middleton, Rothwell and South Milford and over 50 at Armley, Holbeck, Moortown, Oulton and Tadcaster.

The Harrogate area still contains a widespread, but thinly distributed population, with a best of 50 near Sharow, Ripon on 24th July. There were also relatively good numbers in many of the villages in the Yorkshire Dales with, for example, up to 50 around Kettlewell in May. However, it is becoming much scarcer around Malham Tarn.

The only passage occurred at Spurn, where 63 went south between 12th September and 3rd November, with a maximum of 13 on 4th October.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident; very recent population recovery. BBS 52/216

After a population crash between the late 1970s and early 1990s, there has been a recent increase in numbers, particularly since 2006, although still below previous levels. Nationally numbers were up this year, contributing towards the 37% increase in England since 1995.

Despite remaining scarce in the west, an increase is apparent in many areas, often resulting from from a number of nest box and supplementary feeding projects. In the north-east, it is still widely distributed at sites including Boulby, Scaling Dam, Skelton, Saltburn, Pinchinthorpe, Kilton Thorpe and Kilton. There were also good numbers around Scarborough, with 160 feeding in cover crop at Cloughton in January, 70 at Potter Brompton Carr on 28th August and 80 there on 30th November and 80 at Cloughton Wyke on 12th November. The breeding colony at Filey Dams continues to flourish, with a new colony now also established at Reighton Sands. Over 50 pairs bred at Flamborough, with peak monthly counts of 282 in January, 139 in February, 235 on 28th September, 160 on 13th October and 211 on 28th November. Further down the coast, numbers peaked at Grimston at 150 on 4th September. Although considered scarce, but widespread, in the Hull Valley, there were 80 around Little Kendale at Driffield on 5th May and 60 at Atwick on 7th September.

Pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, with over 50 present there in the latter three months, and it was a successful breeding season at Blacktoft Sands, with at least 24 pairs fledging up to three broods each. Numbers increased at Thorne Moors due to the provision of nest boxes, with 40 at Moors Farm the highest local count for over 20 years and the species also bred at Southfield Res, with 45 at the feeding area on 11th January.

Maxima in the Rotherham area included 30 at Firsby Res on 30th October and a peak of 70 at Thrybergh CP during November. Near Barnsley, there were up to 30 at Old Moor and 60 at Wintersett and breeding records included seven pairs at Old Moor and 53 pairs around Wintersett, with 369 young ringed between 5th May and 3rd August. There were also 20 pairs at Birthwaite Hall Farm, at least ten pairs on Jebb Lane at Haigh and five pairs at Oxspring. In the latter part of the year, 60 fed in a bean field at Cold Hiendley on 17th August, up to 15 were in the Edderthorpe area during December and there was a maximum of 42 at Old Moor on 22nd December.

There were between 10 and 50 pairs present at 15 sites in the Huddersfield area, with peak counts of 40 at Healey Mills/Kerry's NR in January and 30 in mid November at Thurgory Lane. However, only one colony remains

in the Halifax area, at Jay House Lane, where 14 nesting pairs were present and the only other record related to three in a Lee Mount garden on 14th/15th November. Near Bradford, there were 14 nests in Timble village, 12 nests at Clifton and four at Leathley, with records from a further five locations. The population around Leeds appears to be doing well, especially around Bardsey and East Keswick, with confirmed breeding at Eccup Moor Road and probably in Eccup Village, the Lemonroyd area, near Skelton Lake, south of Methley, in Rothwell, Clumpcliffe and Tadcaster. Notable counts included at least 40 on Eccup Moor on 24th October and 30 north of Skelton Lake in October.

There were also eight breeding pairs at Fairburn Ings, with up to 40 present during the year. Further north, there has also been a welcome increase in Wharfedale recently, with breeding records in Farnley, Castley, Clifton and the Washburn and good numbers present in Burley and at Bland Hill.

Near York, there were 130 at Allerthorpe in January, while maxima around Harrogate included 30 at Great Ouseburn on 4th January, 34 at Harlow Carr Gardens on 19th January, 60 at Staveley NR on 1st February and 60 at Farnham GP on 18th January. Breeding records were received from Farnham GP, Nosterfield NR, High Batts NR, Staveley NR and Darley.

Spring passage along the coast was very light, with the only records from Spurn, where there were 28 on just four days, including 18 on 22nd March. There were slightly more records in autumn, with four at Hummersea on 2nd October and four over Castle Hill, Scarborough on 10th and two on 14th October. Small numbers were trapped in Filey Top Scrub during the October ringing week and 120 flew south at Hunmanby Gap on 7th October. It was a good autumn at Spurn, with a total of 3704 south between 18th August and 20th November, with notable counts including 426 on 9th September, 332 on 12th September, 220 on 11th October, 325 on 12th, 235 on 13th and 180 on 17th October and, finally, 285 on 3rd November. The number ringed at Spurn broke the record for the second year running, with a total of 2354 trapped.



Tree Sparrows
Ray Scally

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*
Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 188/216: +25% (+13) 1995-2009, 0% (+3) 2009-10

The long-term trend has shown a substantial increase but in common with many species. It is the second most widespread species, and the sixth most numerous, in the county BBS survey.

In the first winter period, there were few notable counts, exceptions being 113 at Haverah Park on 24th January and 50 availed themselves of the feeders at Wintersett Res during the month. Up to 100 congregated at High

Batts NR on 2nd February and 50 were in a game cover crop at High Hoyland on 5th February, increasing to 120 by 14th. At Old Moor, 90 were present on 10th February and Langsett hosted 30 on 12th February. At Malham Tarn, up to 30 visited the feeders at Keeper’s Cottage on 5th March.

A limited spring passage at Flamborough logged 18 on 27th March and 23 the following day. Spurn recorded larger numbers, with 938 heading south between 2nd March and 27th May, including peaks of 78 on 18th March, 109 on 22nd and 315 on 26th.

A widespread and common breeder, indications of population density included 51 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 40 pairs around Eccup Res and at least 36 singing males at Wharnccliffe Chase. At Malham Tarn, 20 singing males were noted in April, with 18 males on territory in the Little Don Valley on 28th June. At Old Moor, 15 pairs were located, with six territories identified at both Wilthorpe Marsh and Cliff Wood.

In the latter half of the year, South Gare hosted 250 between 2nd–11th October and records near Scarborough included 130 at Long Nab on 22nd September, 100 at Castle Hill on 9th October and 200 at Cloughton Wyke on 31st October. Counts from Filey included 220 on 27th September, with 300 present the next day. Finally, up to 100 were present in Church Ravine, Filey on 3rd November. However, immediately down the coast, 120 headed south at Hunmanby Gap on 7th October, 100 were at Buckton on 9th October, with 80 at nearby Reighton the following day. At Flamborough, 125 were present on 28th September and, in October, 426 were logged between 9th and 16th, including 135 at North Landing on 13th October.

Autumn passage at Spurn logged 520 flying south between 12th September and 20th November, with peak counts of 110 on 27th September, increasing to 350 on 29th. By early October, totals were much reduced, but 280 were present on 9th, 97 on 28th and 70 on 30th. Along the Humber, counts from Sunk Island included 120 on 27th September, 220 on 8th October, 175 on 9th and 120 on two other dates.

Visible migration was reported from several key inland sites, mostly recording passage in a south–westerly direction. On 26th September, 34 headed north–west at Redmires in two hours and 111 passed over Harden, with 141 over Wharnccliffe Chase on 30th. On 17th October, 55 passed west at Redmires and 113 were logged at Harden, with 70 also over Wharnccliffe Chase. Elsewhere, 143 flew over Moscar Cross on 2nd, with 51 there on 5th October and 65 headed west over Langsett on 1st November.

During the second winter period, aggregations included 100 at High Hoyland on 15th November and 60 at Thrybergh CP on 1st December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Breeds from Scandinavia east to the Bering Sea; migrants mostly pass through the county to winter further south, but flocks attracted to beech mast will over–winter while supplies remain.

In the first winter period, most counts were in single figures, although 50 stayed at Ebberston, west of Scarborough, from 5th–9th January, decreasing to 22 at the end of the month, whilst 25 exploited a game cover crop at High Hoyland on 14th February.

Spring passage was typically light along the coast, with just six singles at Spurn between 26th March and 17th April, including three on 11th and two flew north over Filey on 9th April.

In contrast, the autumn passage was record–breaking. The first arrived back at Spurn on 12th September and birds were ever present from 26th September until 20th November. It was a superb autumn, with 5367 bird/days beating the previous best totals at Spurn of 3663 bird/days in 1966 and 3204 bird/days in 1975. Highest counts included 485 on 27th September, 1400 on 8th October, 450 on 9th, 230 on 10th, 245 on 11th, 322 on 12th, 187 on 13th and 175 on 14th October. A total of 561 were ringed at Spurn during the year and abnormal individuals included a grey phase individual and a Brambling x Chaffinch hybrid. Elsewhere along the coast, 55 were present at Buckton on 27th September and 51 the next day, on which date 35 were at Filey and 30 were also present on Old Scalby Tip. Autumn passage at Flamborough produced 136 on 27th September, 86 the next day, whilst in October there were 103 on 9th, 46 on 10th, 25 on 12th, 150 on 13th and 32 on 16th. At Filey, notable counts related to 70 on 7th and 90 on 9th October. An influx into the north–east from 8th–10th October brought 150 to South Gare, 50 at Hunt Cliff, whilst a flock of 100 appeared at Pinchinthorpe on 12th October.

Visible migration produced two flying south–west at Pule Hill/Marsden on 30th September, whilst in October, six flew over Wharnccliffe Chase on 7th, ten were in a mixed flock of finches on 17th, then 46 were logged moving westwards over Redmires Res on 22nd, with 55 heading west there the following day. At Harden three were present on 17th October, increasing to 11 on 24th, whilst on 30th, 35 flew south–west at Moscar Cross and 140 headed west at Redmires Res in 150 minutes, with 62 overflying the site on 7th November. At Ripon Parks, passage was noted during the second week of October, with 140 logged from 10th–15th, including 50 on 12th.

A flock of 50 roosted at Timble on 7th November and a similar number appeared near the car park at Swinsty Res in the second half of the month. In addition, High Hoyland hosted 50 on 15th November. At the year–end, several remained around Filey, even through the harsh weather, with ten observed on a feeder at Hunmanby Gap on 9th December and a flock of 30 associated with Linnets at Staveley NR on 3rd December.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* **A**
Common resident and passage migrant
BBS 118/216: –5% (+3) 1995–2009, –3% (–7) 2009–10

A mostly European species that is resident in the county, although there is some seasonal movement and immigration from Fennoscandia. This species has suffered a reverse in fortunes since 2005 due to the *Trichomonosis* disease.

Encouragingly, a sizeable flock of 500 feeding in a ‘sunflower strip’ at Ebberston, Scarborough on 9th January was a record count for the area. Other January flocks included 80 at Old Moor on 3rd, 50 at Sheffield University on 4th and 40 roosted at Aston on 11th. In February, 70 were still present at Old Moor on 1st, 175 congregated near Eccup Res on 9th, 40 were at Blackburn Meadows NR on 20th and, at the end of the month, 36 frequented the feeding area at Southfield Res. Finally in March, a flock of 100 remained at Eccup Res on 1st and 70 lingered at Old Moor on 13th. Significantly, the roost near Yeadon Tarn only held a maximum of 30, which was one tenth of the number present the previous year.

Spring passage at Spurn was described as very poor, with only 290 heading south between 17th January and 18th May, with the highest day counts a mere 37 on 22nd and again on 26th March.

During the breeding season, indications of population densities came from 14 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 12 pairs at Old Moor, eight pairs at Spurn and six pairs at Goldthorpe.

Visible migration over the Huddersfield area logged 386 on 13 dates between 22nd September and 28th October, mostly heading in a southerly direction. The peak came in early October, with 135 on 2nd and 92 on 4th. At Deanhead Res, 55 headed south/south–east on 2nd October, with 53 heading west over Redmires Res and 17 flying south–west over Harden Quarries on 17th October. Twenty–one flew south–west over Wharnccliffe Chase on 30th September, whilst 70 headed south over Old Moor on 10th October.

Interestingly, autumn passage at Spurn showed an increase from the previous year, but numbers were still much lower than an ‘average’ autumn, blame being apportioned to the effects of *Trichomonosis*. A total of 1742 flew south between 22nd August and 13th November, with peak counts in October of 163 on 4th, 203 on 5th and 320 on 7th. At Flamborough, the largest counts came in September, with 90 on 12th, 140 on 20th and 200 on 28th. Peak counts at Filey were provided by the ringers, who processed 100 between 2nd–25th October, including 44 on 12th.

Later in the year, higher counts were almost non–existent, possibly due to the hard winter weather. In November, 200 flocked at Musham Bank, Scarborough on 7th, 50 returned to High Hoyland on 15th and the roost near Yeadon Tarn held up to 75 in late December, with a peak count of 120.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 148/216: +133% (+63) 1995–2009, –43% (+10) 2009–10

Britain’s resident race *britannica* mostly winters overseas to the south in France and Spain, but some birds are present year–round in the county, with passage from further north in Britain. The long–term population trend is upwards, and although there appeared to be a decrease in 2010, the momentum from the massive increase in 2009 put this species into the top 15 most abundant Yorkshire birds.

Large flocks were scarce at the beginning of the year, with the best counts of 120 at Old Wheel Dam, Sheffield on 2nd January, 150 at Old Moor the following day and 100 then roosted in Rother Valley CP on 7th January. The next day Carlton Marsh hosted 120, while an impressive 250 were present at Staveley NR on 22nd January and 150 were in Haw Park, Winterset, on the last day of the month. In February, 60 were at Bolton Ings on 7th, 150 frequented Broomhead Res on 10th, Potteric Carr hosted 60 and Locke Park a further 200 on 14th and 60 fed at Meadowhall Retail Park, Sheffield the next day. In the latter half of February, there were 60 near Rivelin Filters on 16th, 75 in North Duffield on 20th and 70 frequented Blacka Moor the next day. A flock of 66 remained in residence around Yeadon Tarn in both January and February, and in March, 70 were regularly seen around Old Moor, with 100 at White Lea Moor on 6th.

Spring passage was evident along the north–east coast, where 32 flew north at Hunt Cliff on 17th April, but passage was poor at Spurn, with only 730 heading south between 6th March and 5th June and peak counts of 37 on 22nd and 26th March.

Despite the relatively poor start to the year, breeding was widespread and included 17 pairs at Winterset, 14 pairs at Fairburn Ings, nine at Old Moor and four at Spurn. In the north-east, the local population remains strong, as indicated by numbers in a well-monitored garden in Skelton, where 269 were ringed throughout the year, compared with 194 in 2009 and 199 in 2008.

Visible migration in the Filey area involved 1150 heading south at Hunmanby Gap on both 7th and 10th October. At Flamborough, maxima included 100 on 18th August, 480 on 28th September and 400 on 5th October, with 53 on 6th November the last significant count.

Passage at Spurn was fantastic, with 20,657 logged passing down the peninsula between 22nd August and 24th November, representing the second highest ever total. Maxima in October included 780 on 2nd, 3410 on 4th, 3640 on 5th, a new one-day record of 4975 on 6th, 2158 on 7th, declining slowly to 673 on 22nd, with a peak count in November of 323 on 3rd.

Aggregations from late summer included 350 at Old Moor and 100 in Manor Fields Park, Sheffield both on 2nd August. Other August counts included 107 at Haverah Park on 3rd, 100 at Thrybergh CP on 24th and 100 flew past Boulby, Cleveland on 26th. Early in September, 150 were at Ripon Loop on 2nd, with 150 at Wombwell Ings on 9th, 100 on Bewerley Lane, Pateley Bridge on 16th and 200 in Wombwell the next day. On the coast, there were 100 at Buckton on 12th and 150 at Scalby Lodge on 15th. In Upper Wharfedale there were 100 on Denton Moor during September, while numbers peaked at 500 at Staveley NR on 25th October and the roost at Winterset contained 140 on 28th October.

At Sunk Island, 1200 were recorded from 1st-9th October, with a peak of 350 on 8th. In the Huddersfield area, 90 were recorded over Harden Quarries between 26th September and 7th November, with a similar number at Marsden/Pule Hill between 30th September and 25th October.

In the final months, 25 flew south over Langsett on 1st November, 70 were at Hook Moor during the month and similar numbers roosted at Leeds/Bradford Airport during October and in Yeadon Cemetery in November. Finally, 200 were at Musham Bank on 7th and 70 on the cliff top at Buckton on 10th November, with 60 taking advantage of the food supply at Fairburn Ings during the winter.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* **A**

Scarce breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 7/216

Breeds in upland conifer plantations, but visitors to gardens in winter may include immigrants from northern Europe. There is insufficient local breeding data to identify trends, but nationally it has increased by 47% since 1995.

There were few sizeable flocks in the first winter period, but higher counts near Scarborough included 50 at Scalby Beck on 4th January, 60 in a Scalby garden on 6th February and 150 within Wykeham Forest on 11th March. Potteric Carr attracted a flock during the first winter period, which peaked at 70 on 15th February, while in the south-west, Broomhead Res hosted 80 on 10th January, with numbers increasing to 150 by 10th February. Up to 50 frequented Winterset Res between January and March, with 150 in nearby Haw Park on 31st January. Around Leeds, birds were generally scarce all year, possibly as a consequence of the poor winter weather, although 80 overflowed Keswick Marsh on 23rd January. In the Huddersfield area, 200 were present at Bretton Lakes on 17th January, declining to 70 by 25th, with 70 in Haigh Woods on 1st February. In the Harrogate area, 52 were feeding along the road to Scar House Res on 17th February, with 80 at Staveley NR on 2nd March.

Spring passage at Spurn was light, with 42 moving south between 8th March and 19th May.

In the north-east, one or two pairs were present in Guisborough until 25th August and a male fed two recently fledged juveniles at Lockwood Beck on 18th May. Inland of Scarborough, the species breeds widely in the forests fringing the North Yorkshire Moors and several singing males were noted in Dalby Forest on 2nd April.

Displaying males and young were recorded from a number of locations in the Sheffield area, while seven males held territories near Langsett, with a further three located at Midhope Res. In the Huddersfield area, the only evidence of confirmed breeding came from the Little Don Valley, where a juvenile was being fed on 22nd April. However, display was noted on several dates in May and June at Bare Bones Road and three juveniles appeared in a garden at Hade Edge on 7th June. In Upper Wharfedale, there were seven records of breeding, with juveniles recorded at Greenfield and Bastow Woods and others reported from Menston, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley and Addingham. An early singing male was in Elslack Plantation, Skipton in February, while Harrogate's only breeding season records related to singles at Gouthwaite Res on 29th April and Scar House Res on 22nd June.

Autumn passage along the coast included 50 at Hunt Cliff from 9th-11th October. Further south, eight flew south at Long Nab on 22nd September, Scarborough's Castle Hill hosted 60 on 9th October, 34 headed south at Long Nab on 31st October, when 52 also flew south at Newlands Dale. In addition, 50 stayed in a Scalby garden on 22nd/23rd November. At Filey, 90 were located in the Country Park area on 28th September. At Hunmanby

Gap, 102 flew south in two hours on 7th October, while 30 were at Buckton on 11th October. Passage at Flamborough spanned 8th September until 16th November, with 1560 bird/days logged and peak counts of 504 on 28th September and 270 on 9th October. At Spurn, 2230 flew south between 5th September and 11th December, with 207 logged on 5th October, 150 on 28th and 110 on 30th October. The following month, numbers included 149 on 5th and 333 on 13th November. In total, 205 were ringed at Spurn during the autumn, which represented the highest ever tally for Spurn.

Around Huddersfield, 27 flew south-west at Harden Quarries on 12th September, seven headed south-west over Wessenden Valley on 21st September and 86 were logged over Harden Quarries between 26th September and 7th November, with a maximum of 29 flying south-west on 26th September. At Pule Hill/Marsden, 37 flew over between 30th September and 25th October, with a maximum of 24 heading south-west on 2nd October. Sixteen flew west over Colne Valley on 2nd October and, at Scammonden Res, southerly movements in October included 30 on 3rd, 15 on 5th/11th, with ten on 16th.

In the east, 100 were at Cowath Beck, Scarborough on 8th December. North Cave Wetlands reported good numbers in October, with 80 on 18th and peaks of 100 on both 17th November and 29th December. Potteric Carr hosted 50 on 12th and 31st December, whilst in the Sheffield area, 85 were at Agden Rocher on 2nd October. Counts from Firsby Res included 61 on 20th October and the maximum count in the Barnsley area related to 60 at Rockley on 31st October. High Batts NR attracted 60 on 24th October and, in Upper Wharfedale, Grass Wood hosted 50 on 21st September. The largest post-breeding flock referred to 300 at Redhouses, North Yorkshire on 14th December.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident and passage migrant

BBS 100/216: -20% (-32) 1995-2009, +10% (+14) 2009-10

A partial migrant, with some birds wintering in France and Spain. Numbers fell rapidly between the mid-1970s and mid-1980s, due to increased nest failure rates, and have fallen again since 2002.

In the first winter period, flocks around Scarborough included 100 at Star Carr on 7th February and 80 at Snainton Ings on 24th March. Cromer Point hosted 320 on 18th April, with 160 at Willerby Carr on the same date. Counts from the Outer Head, Flamborough comprised 211 on 16th January and 104 on 31st, with 157 present on 28th February and a spring peak of 150 on 17th April. At Spurn, there was a cold weather movement of 294 heading south on 17th January. Thorne Moors hosted 380 on 1st January and 80 were at Edderthorpe Flash on 20th February. In the Sheffield area, 120 were by Silverwood Lagoon on 12th January, with 100 at Peat Pits on 5th April. Excellent numbers were reported from Old Moor during the early winter months, with the year's maximum of 690 on 31st January, which included a flock of 600 feeding on stubble fields at Bolton Ings. Good numbers were also attracted to a feeding station at Old Moor, with 170 present on 11th February, whilst 400 were still present on the 'Golden Plover Fields' on 27th February and 100 at Low Cudworth the next day. At Lower Cumberworth near Huddersfield, 350 fed in a game cover crop on 1st January and 200 were at Thurgory Lane on 31st January. Close to Leeds, a flock of up to 200 frequented Astley Lane on 7th March. In the Harrogate area, 200 were at Nosterfield NR on 9th January, on which date 100 were also at Staveley NR, with a peak count at the latter site of 120 on 23rd April.

Only a limited spring passage was apparent along the coast, including 92 over Hunt Cliff on 27th March and 38 moving north there on 17th April. At Long Nab, 30 headed south on 6th April, but the vast bulk of passage took place at Spurn. A total of 3664 headed south along the peninsula between early March and late May and, this below par tally, included a peak of 391 on 16th April.

At Flamborough, breeding bird surveys located a minimum of 73 pairs, and 16 pairs bred at Spurn, where good numbers of juveniles indicated good productivity. Old Moor hosted 18 pairs, with another four pairs breeding successfully on Bolton Ings. Other breeding densities around Barnsley were two territories at Wilthorpe Marsh, six around Broadstones Res and 22 in the Whitwell and Stone Moors/Hunger Hill area. There were an estimated 10-15 pairs holding territories at Barrow, 19 pairs were located at Winterset Res and 13 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings.

Visible migration along the coast was recorded in the north-east from August onwards, with 250 at Hummersea on 14th. At Long Nab, 90 flew south on 1st and 55 headed south on 9th September. At Spurn 4625 were logged flying south between 18th August and 15th December, with 1008 on 21st September the highest day count since 2001 and other peaks included 455 on 2nd, 384 on 3rd, 520 on 4th and 305 on 7th October. Inland, Winterset Res recorded 300 flying south on 13 dates between 13th September and 30th October, with a best of 72 on 7th October.

Along the Humber at Sunk Island, passage in a south-easterly direction included 330 on 21st September and 180 on 27th. In October, there were maxima of 260 on 1st, 920 on 2nd, 260 on 3rd, 690 on 4th, 140 on 5th, 580 on 8th, 120 on 9th and, finally, Sunk Island recorded 165 on 10th.

Near Long Nab, oil seed rape stubble attracted good numbers including 800 on 31st August and 850 on 9th September. Around Filey, numbers steadily built during autumn, with 150 on 31st August and 250 on 2nd September. Flock sizes at Flamborough also increased considerably in late August, with 450 on 21st, whilst 460 were present on 28th September. Treble figures were maintained in October, with 283 on 2nd and 130 on 13th and, following a subdued November, 103 on 10th represented the December maximum. Kingswood, Hull hosted 200 on 9th September.

Beal Carrs recorded over 500 on 22nd September and 225 remained on 30th November. At Southfield Res, the highest count of the year related to over 400 on 6th September and 100 were reported at Huggin Carr, near Hatfield Moors on 5th November.

In the south-west, Carlton Marsh hosted 200 on 2nd October, with a similar number in a stubble field at Gunthwaite on 12th September. In the Sheffield area, 220 were at Silverwood on 4th, with 250 there on 27th September. Near Winterset Res, a flock near Cold Hiendley peaked at 150 on 13th August. Honley Moor hosted 200 on 14th September and, near Halifax, 200 were at Soil Hill on 6th and 15th September. Autumn numbers peaked early at Nosterfield NR, with 434 on 28th September, whilst numbers at Staveley NR built up more slowly, with 300 still present on 3rd December.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident breeder in Pennines; uncommon migrant/ winter visitor

Birds of the British race *pipilans* breed colonially on moorlands in Scotland, Ireland and in the South Pennines SPA.

At the start of the year, a flock of 22 appeared at Sunk Island, with 19 at Flamborough and 20 at Spurn on New Year's Day. Additional records at Spurn during January included 43 flying south on 17th, a single at Chalk Bank on 24th and two flew south on 26th. Elsewhere, 20 were at Welwick Pump Station on 4th January, one accompanied a Linnet flock at Cayton Bay on 10th and seven flew west over Stoupe Brow, Ravenscar on 18th January. The flock at Flamborough had reduced to 12 by 10th January, with singles subsequently on 17th January, 28th March and 25th April. The value of the Humber as a wintering area was emphasised by 64 at Patrington Outstray on 23rd January.

Immediately prior to the breeding season, numbers started to build in the Huddersfield area, although numbers were mostly in single figures apart from a few exceptions, including up to 20 at Deer Hill in mid March, 29 at Booth Dam Quarry, Rishworth on 30th March and 22 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 11th April. There were a few records from the Dalehead area of Malham Tarn, where two were present on 25th March, eight on 1st and five on 11th April. Two at Faxfleet and Whitton Sands on 7th April were clearly reluctant to leave the Humber, while a migrant graced North Cave Wetlands on 26th April.

During the breeding season near Huddersfield, a singing male was located at one site on 23rd May, a female fed juveniles there on 25th July and two family parties were seen at a second site on 10th July. There were records from several sites near Halifax during the summer, including six at Warley Moor feeding station on 16th June and seven at an undisclosed location on 5th July. Post-breeding, the Huddersfield/Halifax area attracted several flocks, including 50 at Baitings Res on 17th August and 88 at Booth Dam Quarry, Rishworth on 3rd October. Further north, a singing male on Heyshaw Moor, in the Harrogate recording area, on 22nd June was noteworthy.

Passage at Spurn was relatively good, 200 bird/days were logged from 2nd October until 21st December, with 116 flying south down the peninsula. The majority of records were in October and peak counts included 19 on 6th, 35 on 27th and 13 on 31st. Subsequently, there were 26 on 2nd November, 14 on 3rd and, lastly, 22 at Spurn on 12th December.

South of the Tees, a single appeared at Hummersea on 28th September. Scarborough hosted one at Cromer Point on 4th, with four there on 22nd October and one on 3rd December. A lone individual was attracted to a game cover crop at Cloughton Wyke on 31st October. Filey experienced a very disappointing year, with just one on the Top Fields on 31st October. Flamborough's first returned on 16th September and 20 were present by the month end; October contributed 16 bird/days, with a peak of ten on 25th and in November there were 22 on 10th and 15 on 23rd. Along the Humber, Sunk Island attracted 35 on 11th December, decreasing to 18 the next day. In August, one was at Kingswood, Hull on 5th, with eight there on 26th, four on 29th, two on 30th and six on 31st.

Inland, a single accompanied a Linnet flock at Edderthorpe Flash on 31st October. Pugney's CP recorded one on the Calder Wetlands on 20th November, the first there for many years, whilst at Wilsic, near Doncaster, two were present on 19th December.

In Upper Wharfedale, the only record related to a flock of 25 flying west past the 'vis mig' site at Stainburn on 22nd September. Around Harrogate, a post-breeding party appeared at Tom Corner, Dallowgill, with seven on 3rd August. A single dropped in at Nosterfield NR on 12th August, with it or another on 29th September. Nine flew south at Staveley NR on 30th October and 12 stayed at Farnham GP on 4th November. Seven were

still on the high ground at Lulbeck Head, near Lofthouse on 3rd November and two were in Arnagill on 16th December, one of which was taken by a Peregrine.

Two colour-ringed individuals, initially trapped at Rishworth Quarry in 2008 and 2009, were subsequently observed on the Dingle/Walberswick coastal strip of Suffolk on 30th January.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/216

Breeds in northern and south-east Britain, wintering to the south. It is now largely absent from lowland areas in the county and has been declining in England, although nationally it increased in 2009, this was again reversed in 2010.

Around Sheffield, Pit House West hosted a flock of 100 on 7th January, with 50 on 27th February and 150 on 2nd March. At High Hazels Park, 100 were present on both 10th and 12th January, whilst 150 were recorded at Waverley Opencast on 11th. In February, 100 were present on several dates in the Barrow area of Barnsley and the year's maximum of 200 was recorded from the plantations on Pit Lane on 27th. Old Moor hosted good numbers at the start the year, with a flock of 50 at Manvers Lake on 1st and 3rd January. At Winterset Res, 70 frequented the Country Park on 3rd April and near Leeds, half of a mixed flock of 150 finches by Methley Bridge on 11th February were thought to be this species, with 50 still present a month later.

Evidence of potential breeding came from many sites. In Cleveland, two or three pairs were present at Lockwood Beck between May and August and males were seen displaying at Potter Brompton Carr, Scarborough. In the south-west around Sheffield, display/song was noted in May/June at Whitwell Moor and Blacka Moor. An increase in the number of males holding breeding territories was noted in the Barnsley area, with five near Langsett and two at Midhope Res. At Ewden Height, eight males were singing and displaying on 2nd May and two adults, accompanied by three juveniles, were seen near Langsett on 28th June. Around Huddersfield, there were displaying/singing males at four sites and adults present at four other sites during the breeding season. Near Harrogate, birds were noted at Scar House Res, one flew over Skrikes Wood on 13th May, with another male singing at Brimham Rocks on 17th May. At Malham Tarn, three pairs bred on Tarn Fen, where juveniles were seen in late June.

On the coast, southbound passage was reported from Scarborough, with two at Long Nab on 22nd September. At Spurn, apart from one on 16th July, a total of 940 bird/days was logged between 9th September and the end of November, with 516 birds heading south. The highest day-counts were 80 on 30th September and 57 on 4th, 63 on 13th and 48 on 17th October. A total of 475 trapped ensured it was a record breaking autumn for ringing.

Visible migration inland included two flying south at Southfield Res on 30th September, followed in October by two south on 5th, 11th and 31st, with singles on 19th and 25th and, finally, two flying west on 5th November. Five flew south-west over Beal Carrs on 10th November and, around Sheffield, four headed west at Redmires Res on 18th September, with 21 over there on 26th. Flocks of 13 and 17 passed over Moscar Cross and Rod Moor on 22nd September, nine headed west over Firsby Res on 7th October and 40 flew south over Old Moor three days later. The first autumn record at Winterset Res referred to a single heading south on 18th September. Near Huddersfield, 21 flew south-west over Harden Quarries on 26th and four moved south-west at Pule Hill/Marsden on 30th September, with one heading south-east over Deanhead Res the same day. In October, a single flew south over the Colne Valley and eight went south-west over Marsden/Pule Hill on 2nd. In November, 17 moved south-east over Harden Quarries on 1st and 6th.

Larger flocks during the final few months included 80 in Wykeham Forest on 13th November and 60 at Buckton on 31st December. Hatfield Moors hosted 100 from 14th November through until late December, with numbers subsequently increasing to 250 on 25th December. Around Sheffield, 128 frequented Firsby Res on 19th November, with 120 at Tinsley GC on 27th November. At Fairburn Ings, there were 100 present on 4th/5th December, whilst the year's maximum at Old Moor related to a flock of 80 on 27th November. Winterset Res hosted up to 180 from 14th November until the end of the year. Further north, Barden attracted 100 on 1st November.

More than 70 were ringed at Seventy Acre Hill near Sheffield on 14th November, which included a 'stunning' white individual, previously ringed as a normally-plumaged first-winter male in January. This was neither an albino nor leucistic, but the plumage abnormality resulted from a progressive condition known as vitiligo.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* **A**

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds further north than *cabaret*, across northern Europe, through Asia to North America. Subspecies also breed in south Greenland and Iceland. During eruption autumns, large numbers migrate through or winter in the county. However, the identification of this species is extremely difficult at times, especially in spring, when confusion with Lesser Redpolls can be an issue.

At the beginning of the year, five were at Flixton on 3rd January, with just two there by 7th and a single was in Langdale Forest on 24th. In the Sheffield area, singles were in High Hazels Park on 9th and at Pit House West on 31st January, whilst at Old Moor, singles were located in the Redpoll flocks on sporadic dates in January, with two present on 3rd. Two frequented Bolton Ings on 6th/7th February and in Wharfedale, one appeared in a Menston garden on 17th February. Old Moor hosted a single on 23rd February, one frequented Hatfield Moors on 2nd and 11th April and spring’s last graced Spurn from 9th–16th May.

There was an encouraging number of records during the second half of the year, starting with a single at South Gare on 10th/11th October, mirrored by one at Flamborough on the same dates, with another caught and ringed at Filey on 10th. Most of the records from Filey came via the East Yorkshire Ringing Group, who ringed a total of 16 on 16th October. In the Scarborough area, one was at Scalby Lodge on 13th, with three at Long Nab and six at Castle Hill on 16th October. There was a single in Filey CP on 20th October, followed by another ringed there on 6th November. Singles were located in the north–east at Lockwood Beck on 24th, with another at Hunt Cliff the next day. Flamborough had a good autumn, starting with a single on 10th October, followed by two on both 13th and 16th. Sightings in November included singles on 6th, 20th and 21st, with two on both 25th and 30th. Spurn also experienced one of its best autumns for several years, after the first on 29th September. In total, 127 bird/days were logged between 11th October and 5th December, all involving up to five, except for peak counts of 23 on 16th, eight on 18th October, 17 on 7th November and 21 on 5th December. North of the Observatory, singles were present at Sammy’s Point on 28th September and on Beacon Lane on 10th October.

In the last months of the year, a single was at Firsby Res on 30th October, two were ringed at Blackburn Meadows NR the next day and, at High Hazels Park, singles were trapped on 7th and 21st November, with three trapped on 14th. Potteric Carr hosted a single on 9th/10th November and two were present at Firsby Res, also on 10th. Lone birds frequented a Westwood garden on 21st and Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th November. A single appeared at Old Moor on 25th November, with two present on 27th, on which date two were also at Tinsley Park GC. Up to six noted regularly in the Winterset area from late October through until the year–end, but ringing revealed more were present, with the following caught and ringed: an adult male on 25th October, a first–winter on 10th November, then 14 on 15th (including one wearing a Norwegian ring), and further singles on 16th and 28th November. In Upper Wharfedale, one was ringed in Timble Ings on 15th November. In the north–east, several were amongst a flock of 100 ‘Redpolls’ in Guisborough Forest on 13th November.

In December, one was at Skelton on 2nd December, six visited Manvers Lake on 4th, with two present on three further dates and five there on 18th. Two were at Blackburn Meadows NR on 11th December, on which date another was in a small Redpoll flock near Swillington Ings and, what was thought to be a different individual, accompanied Lesser Redpolls at nearby Fleet Plantation on 18th, with two there and one in another Lesser Redpoll flock at Swillington Ings on 19th. The year’s last appeared at Worsbrough on 28th December.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* **A**
Scarce breeding resident, occasionally in numbers following irruption years. BBS 2/216

Resident in conifer woodland across the Palearctic and North America, nominate *curvirostra* includes further forms identifiable by bill size and call, one of which breeds in the county, and others may do so following irruptions.

Encouragingly, there was more evidence of breeding this year, with confirmation from Langsett Banks, where three pairs raised a total of seven young and a family group of five was present in Langsett Woods on 26th May. A pair calling agitatedly in the Little Don Valley on 18th April was possibly on breeding territory, although only one was located by the end of the month. Three were present in Swinden Plantation on 15th May and may possibly have bred. Breeding was suspected at three additional sites in the Huddersfield area. Territorial song was noted at Ramsden Res between 1st February and 31st March, with breeding strongly suspected. Breeding was suspected, but not proved, in the Little Don Valley. Further north, juveniles were reported from Swinsty Res in July and breeding was strongly suspected around Guisborough Forest.

In northern part of the county, Guisborough Forest and Westworth Wood produced the most reports, particularly in the first half of the year. In January, 39 were present on 19th and 20 remained on 17th March. During the summer, separate flocks of 45 and 27 were noted on 20th July, while seven on 28th October was the year’s last report from the aforementioned sites. There was a series of records at Skelton Castle and its environs, including ten on 17th May and 15 on 5th July. The final record from the north–east related to 60 at Lockwood Beck on 28th October. Around Scarborough, Wykeham Forest hosted 40 on 9th January and 70 during March, with 16 on 30th May and six on 21st June. Numbers in nearby Langdale Forest included 67 on 24th January and 70 on 15th March. In Dalby Forest, 22 were present on 2nd January, whilst there were two in Harwood Dale Forest on 9th April and six at Penny Howe on 15th May. In addition, Broxa Forest held ten on 11th April.

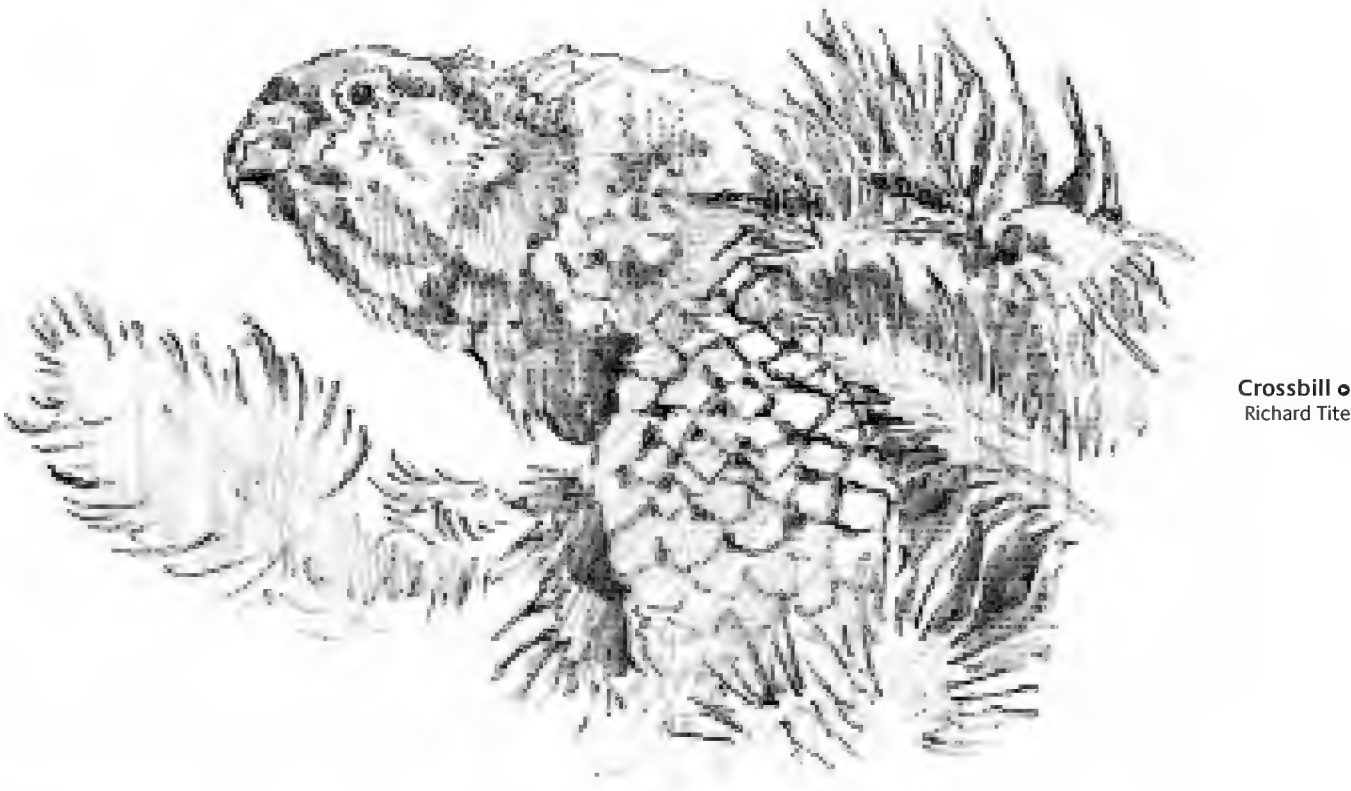
At Filey, only three individuals were recorded, a male on 26th April and two flew over the Country Park on 8th September. Similarly, Flamborough logged one on 15th April and eight on 10th July. Spurn recorded a male in the Crown & Anchor car park on 17th April and two which U–turned over the Warren were later seen at Kew Villa on 14th July. North of the Observatory, one appeared in Easington Cemetery on 17th April.

In Sheffield, there was a series of records from Redmires, with best counts of 12 on 15th May and 14 on 13th June. In August, seven were seen on 8th and eight on 21st, while September produced seven on 19th and 13 flew west on 26th. In November, eight headed west on 10th and ten did similarly on 21st. Elsewhere around Sheffield, there were 46 at Wigtwizzle on 10th January, 30 at nearby Thornseat Delf on 17th and 40 at Howden Res on 26th January, followed by 50 at Broomhead Res on 7th February and 25 in Holling Dale on 21st March. Lower numbers were present around Sheffield during the second half of the year and tallies included 12 at Ecclesall on 18th July, 12 at Foulstone Delph on 15th August and 20 at Strines Moor on 26th November. At Haw Park near Winterset Res, a party of seven was present on 18th February, including two males which were heard singing and courtship feeding.

Small parties noted around Huddersfield included 15 at Riding Wood Res on 27th March, ten at Yateholme on 3rd April, 13 in Crossley’s Plantation on 15th May and 19 heading over Blackmoorfoot Res on 28th June. In the second half of the year, ten were present at Holme Styes on 1st September. At Harden Quarries, visible migration watches accounted for three on 17th and four on 24th October and a single on 6th November, all flying south–west.

It was a poor year in Upper Wharfedale, with the majority of records from Greenfield and Oughtershaw in the north and Timble and Barden in the south. Up to 25 featured at these sites, mostly in February, with similar counts from Timble in September. Early in the year, additional sightings included 20 at both Farnley Lake and Otley Chevin in February. At Swinsty Res, a flock of 20 was present on 11th July, which included juveniles, with just four remaining in October. The only recorded passage related to a flock of eight over Stainburn on 24th July. In the Harrogate area, up to 20 remained around Sawley Hall during January/February.

At Malham Tarn, there were just two records from Tarn Woods, with six on 10th and one on 16th July. Two pairs were present near Skipton in February and Greenfield in Langstrothdale hosted 22 on 7th March. A singing male was noted in display flight at High Houses, Widdale on 4th October.



Crossbill •
Richard Tite

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* **A**
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder (first bred in 1992)

8,12,18,4,24

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century.

Two appeared on 28th May, a first–summer male on the Outer Head at Flamborough (RAB: CCT) and a single by the Warren at Spurn (MMc *et al.*).

The next overflowed the Warren at Spurn on 2nd June and later sang at Kew Villa, before heading back south (PCo: AAH). Another appeared at the Point on 3rd June (MG *et al.*). The next to make landfall were two first–summer males on 5th June, at Old Fall and in the gardens on the Outer Head, Flamborough (AMA). The last of spring stayed briefly by the Warren, Spurn on 6th June (JG).

In the autumn, a first-year remained at Wire Dump, Spurn from 1st–8th September (MBre *et al.*), a first-winter was discovered in Long Hedge, Filey on 2nd September (CW) and, the next day, a first-winter appeared briefly in pines at Hundale Plantation, Long Nab before it flew off inland (NWA) and three first-years were located at the Point, Spurn and stayed until 4th September (SE *et al.*). A single made landfall in the ‘Bay Brambles’, Flamborough on 4th September, whilst three days later, two were located at Old Fall and another sheltered in Bay Brambles (PAL *et al.*). A multiple arrival at Spurn on 7th September included a single trapped and ringed at the Warren (PCo), two in Church Field (AAH) and two at the Point (RH: MK *et al.*), with one present there on 8th, two on 9th and one on 11th and again on 13th. The last records related to singles in Church Field, Spurn on 27th September (AAH) and at South Landing, Flamborough on 9th October (JOM: AMal).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; scarce passage migrant/ winter visitor. BBS 36/216
Birds of the British and Irish race *pileata* are non-migratory, and the population decrease since the 1970s must be attributable to changes in agricultural practices. Nominate race birds from Fennoscandia (“Northern Bullfinch”) can migrate long distances and are occasional east coast migrants.

At the start of the year, ten were at Leavening, Malton on 2nd January and a record 46 at Old Moor the next day, with 31 still present there in late March. Ten were feeding in a garden at Dore, Sheffield on 5th January and monthly maxima at Potteric Carr included 22 on 17th January, 13 on 10th February and 14 on 8th March. Twelve were located at North Ferriby on 27th January, with a similar number at Lemonroyd, Leeds on 30th, when a further ten took refuge in Pateley Bridge during the cold snap. February counts included 12 at Firsby Res on 1st, ten at Silverwood Pit Top on 2nd, 13 at Hay-a-Park GP on 13th, 17 at Kilton Tip, Cleveland on 14th and 21 at Scholes, Leeds on 25th. Small parties in March included 11 at Hay-a-Park GP on 13th and 13 at Harlow Carr Gardens during the month. Lastly, 12 were at Walton Colliery NR on 10th April.

The population at Skipwith Common appeared to be doing well and, although below levels from ten years ago, numbers were improved over those present during the last five years. In addition, numbers around parts of Barnsley appear to be increasing, especially at Worsbrough and Old Moor.

Breeding appeared well distributed, with nine pairs around Old Moor, four pairs at Potteric Carr and Edderthorpe Flash and 18 territories around Winterset Res. Further north, up to four pairs probably bred at Pugney’s CP and Fairburn Ings hosted 11 pairs. In Upper Wharfedale, pairs bred in five gardens within the area.

In the latter half of the year, Old Moor hosted 20 on 11th September (and again on 18th December), 16 were at Farnham GP on 22nd September, with 12 at Firsby Res on 29th. In October, ‘vis mig’ included 18 moving south/south-west at Harden on 24th, on which date two flew over Skelton, Cleveland, giving the nasal ‘trumpet’ call generally associated with the nominate race. There were 15 at Firsby Res on 16th October and 12 at Walton Colliery NR on 24th. Larger November tallies included 12 at Firsby Res on 16th, 11 at Winterset Res, 13 at Thrybergh CP on 23rd, 30 at Old Moor the next day, 13 at Potteric Carr and 12 at Midhope Res on 28th, 15 at Carlton Marsh on 30th and 20 at Harlow Carr Gardens during the month. Lastly in December, 14 were in a garden at Dore, Sheffield on 1st, 11 frequented Ulley CP on 19th, 18 appeared at Potteric Carr on 21st, 12 were in Thrybergh CP on Christmas Eve and, at the year-end, 17 stayed at Eccup Res on 28th and 15 at Worsbrough the following day.

At Filey CP, a large female ‘Northern’ was present on 17th October. Spurn experienced a very good autumn for ‘Northerns’, with daily records from 16th–31st October, including seven on 16th/17th and a bird/day total of 46. North of the Observatory, a male ‘Northern’ race appeared on Beacon Lane on 24th October.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding resident. BBS 1/216

This Palearctic species is scarce in the UK (3000 – 5000 pairs) and in long-term decline, and this also appears to be the case in the county, where it has disappeared from many traditional sites.

The sole spring migrant along the coast showed well in the car-park at Bempton Cliffs on 3rd/4th May. Spurn experienced a good autumn, commencing with one at Kew Villa/Pancho Pond on 5th September, with presumably the same re-appearing over Kew Villa and Beacon Lane the next day. Another single stayed in the Kew Villa/Crown & Anchor car park in Kilnsea on 27th September and the following day, Flamborough recorded two at Grange Farm. In October, two were seen in the Kew Villa/Triangle area on 8th October, with one over Kew Villa on 9th/10th and one made landfall at Holmes Gut, Flamborough on 9th. Later in the month, one flew north-west over Kew Villa on 14th, whilst lone birds were in the same area on 20th/21st and at the Point on 20th. The eighth record for Filey occurred early on 25th, when a single flew over the Top Scrub. Lastly, at Spurn, a single flew south over Kew Villa on 30th October.

Elsewhere, there were scattered records from disparate sites, possibly a result of the hard weather at the start of the year, but worryingly, few records were received from previous key locations. In early January, one

headed east over Menagerie Wood at Bretton Lakes on 4th and a single fed in a garden on the Jennyfield Estate, Harrogate on 24th January. There were regular sightings from Kings Wood, Roche Abbey, from 14th March until 10th April, where up to two remained in residence, with three present on 3rd April.

In the second half of the year, one was reported from Platts Lane, Oughtibridge on 9th August. Perhaps the most exciting record came from Upper Wharfedale, where a male, female and juvenile were seen intermittently in the National Park office garden in Grassington from 15th–18th October. A single arrived with Redwing and lingered for ten minutes at Healey Mills/Kerry NR on 10th November, while in the Barnsley area, the sole record related to a single at Worsbrough on 12th December.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce to uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from the Arctic and northernmost European breeding grounds.

January produced a single at South Gare on 1st, 20 at Buckton the next day, 15 between Speeton and Buckton on 3rd, one at Cromer Point, Scarborough from 5th–9th and, more unusually, one inland at Thurcroft Pit Top, Rotherham on 25th January (JOM), while ten were resident at Flamborough throughout the month.

A superb autumn influx started with a single over Speeton on the early date of 28th August, followed by further singles at Filey on 30th and Flamborough on 31st. By early September, it was clear that large numbers were arriving in the Northern Isles, involving individuals suspected to be of Greenland origin and these then quickly moved on, presumably filtering southwards.

Spurn proved to be most productive site, with a record 479 bird/days and a visible migration total of 365 heading south by 5th December, with peaks of 18 on 23rd September, 36 on 7th October and again on 1st November. Elsewhere, September produced a single at Grimston on 1st and four on 28th, a single at Speeton on 5th, followed by three on 12th and 12 on 21st, a single at Scalby Lodge on 7th, three at Long Nab on 11th, nine at Scarborough and ten at South Gare on 12th and eight at Filey on 13th. In the latter half of September, there were two at Jackson’s Bay, Scarborough on 17th, two at Hornsea Mere on 19th and, finally, 30 at Buckton, 31 at Hunt Cliff and 17 at Flamborough, all on 28th.

The influx continued apace into October, with single figures at Filey throughout, 15 at Hundale on 2nd, 20 at Boulby on 12th, 18 at Flamborough on 13th, two at Barmston on 16th, singles south at Scarborough on 16th and 19th, five at Grimston on 23rd, 18 at Scarborough on 25th, 55 at Flamborough on 27th and 70 at Buckton and two at Grimston on 30th.

November witnessed 80 at Flamborough on 4th, 35 sporadically at Grimston from 6th–18th, 125 at Buckton on 10th, constituting the year’s largest flock, five at Barmston on 14th, followed by 35 at Speeton and ten at Hundale on 16th. The record year closed with 19 at Flamborough on 6th December, eight at Bempton on 9th and three at Speeton on 28th.

Unsurprisingly, the autumn also produced a record number of inland sightings, mainly fly-overs. These began in September, with singles rewarding the dedicated ‘vis mig’ team at Oxenhope, Bradford on 12th, 23rd, 25th and 26th September (DCB: HMC: CJK), with lone individuals over Blacktoft Sands on 14th, Beacon Hill, Halifax on 16th (DJP), Hunter Hill, Wainstalls (DJSu) and Sunk Island (JW) on 21st, Redmires Res on 26th (RDH), Timble Ings on 28th (AJ) and Stainburn on 30th (AMH).

October records included fly-overs at Marsden/Pule Hill, Huddersfield on 2nd (JMP), Sunk Island on 3rd (JW), Grassington Moor on 4th, with one present from 11th–13th (GL), at Wholestone Moor, Huddersfield (DTa) and Swillington Ings on 8th (DA: MB) and Redmires Res on 10th (RDH). Oxenhope again proved productive, with singles on 11th, 17th and 23rd October (DCB: HMC: CJK), while records at other sites included one at Warland Res, Halifax on 24th (JCo), two over Staveley NR the following day (PTT), another duo over Winterset on 27th (GJS), singles over Guisborough Forest and Sleddale on 28th (MAB: CD) and one over Old Moor on 30th (DMW *et al.*).

Finally, in November, three accompanied two Snow Buntings at Orgreave Lagoons, Sheffield on 6th–7th (MNR *et al.*), with two remaining on 10th and a single on 13th. The last flew south-west over Nosterfield NR on 14th November and represented the second site record (SPW).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon winter visitor; scarce inland

Breeds in the circumpolar Arctic tundra, with small numbers in the Scottish Highlands: most of our wintering birds are probably from Iceland.

The early winter period was largely uneventful, although January kicked off with the highest count of the period, with 115 at South Gare on 1st, followed by 30 at Buckton the next day, 12 between Buckton and Speeton on 3rd, four at Scarborough on 5th, a single at Paull Holme Strays on 16th, three at Filey on 17th and a maximum

of seven at Flamborough during the month. February produced a single at Filey on 7th, one well inland at Ploughcroft, Halifax on 13th and 75 at South Gare and 80 at Spurn, both on 14th. March records included two at Filey and 25 at South Gare on 4th, one over Filey on 23rd and two at Scalby Nab on 31st. April produced one over Jackson’s Field, Scarborough on 7th and, the final record of the spring, related to a single at Flamborough on 25th.

The first autumn record referred to two in–off at Spurn on 11th September, followed by a single at Jackson’s Field, Scarborough on 17th September and five at Filey on 28th. October produced occasional in–offs at Filey, two at Hunt Cliff on 10th, with 20 there the next day, two at South Gare on 17th, one at Long Nab on 24th and a single at Grimston and three at Barmston on 30th. November saw a more concentrated arrival, with 12 at Filey on 1st, 29 at Spurn on 3rd, 30 at Flamborough on 4th, 40 at Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea and 20 at South Gare on 6th, eight at Grimston on 8th, a single in–off at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 10th, 25 at Barmston on 13th and 30 at Flamborough and one over Seamer Tip Pool on 14th. In the second half of the month, Speeton hosted 35 and Long Nab a further 22 on 16th and a single appeared at Ulrome on 21st November. The final month of the year started with six north at Grimston and two over Speeton on 3rd, two in–off at Grimston on 4th, 57 at Flamborough on 6th, increasing to 80 there by 8th. Up to eight were present at Spurn on ten dates and two were found dead on Carr Naze at Filey, presumably due to the harsh weather.

Inland records included a single over Harden Quarries, Huddersfield and three over Oxenhope, Bradford, both on 25th September, three over Oxenhope on 1st October and two over Marsden/Pule Hill, Huddersfield and a single over Oxenhope on 2nd October. The latter site then accounted for additional singles on 5th, 6th and 17th October. Singles overflowed Soil Hill on 23rd October and Queensbury the next day, with the month’s final record heading over Marsden/Pule Hill on 25th October.

November started with a single on Thorne Moors from 1st/2nd, an immature male over Southfield Res also on 1st and two at Goole Moor on 3rd. A single flew over Harden Quarries on 6th, the same date that two were discovered in company with three Lapland Buntings at Orgreave Lagoons, Sheffield, with one remaining on 7th. Also on 7th, a single flew over Winterset Res, with two on the edge of the Humber at Sunk Island. Three were recorded during visible migration watches at Caldene Flats between 4th October and 7th November. Soil Hill accounted for a run of November records, with singles on 13th/14th, 21st, 23rd and 27th and two present on 20th. Other November sightings included one over Harden Quarries on 6th and a single in Sleddale on 20th/21st. In December, one accompanied Reed Buntings at the top of the Wessenden Valley on 18th.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident and passage migrant
BBS 101/216: –17% (–23) 1995–2009, 0% (+2) 2009–10

The population has fallen since the mid–1980s and the trend remains downwards, albeit at a slower rate, with the lack of winter seed availability thought to be an important contributory factor.

In the east, the largest winter flocks were 205 at Flamborough on 16th January and 165 at Buckton and 49 at Bewholme Hall in early February. Further west, 150 were at Spa Farm, Treeton on 3rd January, 150 at Letwell on 17th January, 60 at Nosterfield on 1st January, 50 at Stubb House Farm, Leeds on 2nd January and 150 at Staveley NR, Harrogate on 19th February.

At Spurn, singles were seen on two dates in January, then up to five from 27th February until early June, with six on 14th March. During this period, 22 flew south and 12 ‘U–turned’.

The first singing male was heard in the Hull Valley on 7th March. Breeding populations were widely scattered and densities included seven pairs at Buckton, 35 pairs at Flamborough, 14 at Little Kendale at Driffeld, 11 males at Edderthorpe, 36 males at Winterset and four pairs at Fairburn Ings. There were records from 36 sites in the Huddersfield area and it was commonest near Leeds in the Wharfe Valley. On a positive note, although thought to be extinct in Upper Wharfedale, two pairs held territory at Leathley. However, there were no breeding records from the Yorkshire Dales and further east, fewer than normal were noted at Filey.

During the autumn, Spurn recorded three singles in September, then 65 bird/days between 2nd October and 6th November. All records were up to five, apart from ten on 4th October and eight on 5th November. In the same period, only eight flew south, although many ‘U–turned’ back north. Inland visible migration included 12 over Stainburn and a single over Oxenhope during October, the latter representing the only Bradford record for the entire year.

During the late winter period, 75 were at Long Nab on 19th October, 98 at Potter Brompton on 30th November, 122 at Flamborough and 150 at Bestwick on 28th November, 160 at Buckton in December, 30 at Thrybergh CP on 1st December, 200 at Staveley NR on 19th and, finally, 50 at Ripon Loop on 26th December.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **A**
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

Breeds from Spain north–east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub–Saharan Africa.

The year’s first appeared during a mid–August fall, when a single appeared in the Gorse Field at Flamborough on 14th August (RAB: PC *et al.*). Flamborough also accounted for the next, a single at nearby Head Farm on 24th August (PC: PAL).

Fall conditions in early September produced a spike of records, with one at Holmpton on 5th (GJS) and two at Filey (FXM: JS *et al.*) and a single at Bempton on 7th (IK). Two also made landfall at Spurn on 7th, including one initially at Sandy Beaches Caravan Park, which subsequently moved to the Warren and later flew south at the Point (CT) and another at Middle Camp, which despite heading off north, was relocated in the same spot the next day and remained until 9th (PWr).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* **A**
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 61 previous records (63 birds)

Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to Kamchatka and winters from Turkestan through to eastern China.

A first–winter appeared in Holmes Gut, Flamborough during fall conditions on 28th September (JOM: AW *et al.*). After vanishing, it was relocated a short distance away in a wildlife cover strip along St David Lane on 2nd October and continued to give excellent views, often perched in a single hawthorn bush, until 3rd.

On 8th October, Spurn hosted a single, initially at Southfield Farm before it moved towards Rose Cottage; it was relocated the next day at Cliff Farm and eventually showed well along Beacon Lane (GAD: RH *et al.*).

The final record of the year related to a female/immature at Coatham Marsh on 9th October (MRKA).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* **A**
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 65 previous records (67 birds)

Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south–east Asia and China. There have been a small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

It was a good year consisting of six individuals, with all but one at Spurn. Two were found during the late September ‘Robin fall’, with one at the Point at Spurn on 27th September (ASD *et al.*) and a first–winter female caught and ringed with migrant Reed Buntings at Buckton on 28th (EG: MST).

Typically, Spurn then had the monopoly, with three individuals on 9th October, at the Warren (AJG *et al.*), at the Point (SE: IS) and ringed at Kew (PCo). A single at Sunnyclyff, Spurn on 11th October was presumed to relate to one of the aforementioned (ICW).

The year’s final individual appeared at post 18, Spurn, before flying off south on 7th November (AAH).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.
BBS 56/216: +66% (+31) 1995–2009, +8% (+2) 2009–10

A Palearctic species which is largely resident in the county, joined by immigrants from Scandinavia in winter. The longer–term trend is very positive. After the population reached a nadir in the late 90s, leading to its red list designation, this was changed to amber in 2009 as a result of its apparent recovery. The population has remained stable in the county for the last three years, and showed an increase this year.

In the early winter, high counts included 97 at Flamborough on 16th January, 240 at Hornsea Mere on 30th January, 45 at Melbourne Reedbed on 23rd January, 150 at Spa Farm, Treeton on January 3rd, 35 at Rodley NR, Leeds on 7th January, 18 at Dewsbury SF on 4th January and 60 wintering at Staveley NR.

At Spurn, 84 flew south from 17th January until 6th April, with the highest count relating to 11 on 18th March.

Many observers reported an increase in breeding numbers, with eight pairs at Buckton, 30 pairs at Flamborough, eight pairs at Tophill Low, seven pairs at both Spurn and Southfield Res, 340 pairs at Blacktoft Sands, 80 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 57 singing males at Winterset Res, 29 territorial males at Edderthorpe, 36 singing males at Pugney’s CP and 58 males in one discrete area of Swillington Ings. In addition, there were 13 males in eight locations around Halifax, 12 pairs at Staveley NR and 13 territories at Strensall Common, York. In the Yorkshire Dales, Snaygill Ings hosted four pairs.

Coastal arrivals were noted from 2nd September, with 75 at Spurn on 25th, while Flamborough hosted 188 and Filey 23 on 9th October, Spurn a further 60 the next day and 33 were ringed at Buckton on 13th October. A total of 19 at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 17th October represented the last appreciable influx. Along the estuary, Sunk Island attracted 70 on 4th October.

Visible passage at Spurn produced 349 heading south from 11th September until 20th November, with a best of 78 on 7th October. Inland, visible migration over Oxenhope logged 83 during the autumn, the best movement for three years.

During the last quarter, notable counts included 59 at Firsby Res on 25th October, 20 at Timble Ings in mid November, 20 at High Hoyland on 15th, 48 at Beswick on 28th, 22 at Potter Brompton Carr on 30th November, 130 at Thrybergh CP on 1st December, 34 at feeders at Lemonroyd in December, 19 in a Skelton garden on 16th and 46 at Patrington Outstay on 19th December.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident, not on higher ground. BBS 14/216

Breeds in open country from the Mediterranean to western China. After a massive decrease between the mid 1970s and 1980s, which is still continuing nationally (-29%, 1995-2009), this species now seems to be restricted to discrete areas of the county containing optimum habitat, but previously under-watched areas being covered by the 2007-11 Atlas will reveal a more accurate picture.

The year started with 11 at Southfield Res on 1st January. Early on, the highest count related to a splendid flock of 200 at Buckton, taking advantage of sympathetically managed farmland; the flock remained for three months from early January, although often fluctuated in number, as birds wandered to nearby Bempton and Flamborough. Elsewhere, Filey recorded 50 on 2nd January, up to 70 visited Long Marston on 3rd, 90 appeared at Cornfield NR on 11th, followed by 25 at Huggin Carr on 16th, 145 at Melbourne Reedbed and 28 at Reighton on 23rd January and, finally, 41 at Rawcliffe Bridge on 31st. February records included 75 at East Cottingwith on 8th, 26 at Helperthorpe on 14th, 42 at Clifton Ings on 19th, 30 at Haverdale on 20th and 12 at Ladybridge Farm, Harrogate on 23rd. March started with eight at East Cottingwith and 30 at Bielby on 7th. Singles at Spurn on 14th March and three on 22nd and 28th March probably indicated movement, whilst 26 frequented East Newton on 23rd March and eight remained wintering at Helperthorpe on 26th, with a similar number at Wheatlands Woodland near York on 28th. April's records included six at Hooton Roberts, Rotherham and 15 at East Cottingwith on 11th, four at Stainforth Moor on 18th, 30 at Hatfield Moors on 21st, and four at Skipwith Common on 28th. In May, 33 at Little Kendale, Driffild on 5th was an intriguing record, with eight at Helperthorpe on 16th.

The core breeding nucleus remains in the Wolds, to the west of Flamborough. There were nine territorial males at Buckton, up to five at Bempton and, encouragingly, an increase to eight pairs at Flamborough itself, locations all benefitting from targeted agricultural prescriptions. Further south, the Hull Valley hosted seven territories, three were singing at North Cave and a single summered in the Foston-Kelk area. Unfortunately, a single May record at Warsett Hill, Cleveland represented an all time annual low for the north-east. In Rotherham, a single male was present at Harthill Res on July 6th, with four sites occupied in the Leeds area and five sites in Harrogate.

The first appreciable aggregation in the latter half of the year related to 50 at Cornfield NR, York on 1st July, with up to ten around Hatfield Moors into August. Notable September records included a single at Fairburn on 1st, one over Staveley NR on 5th and two at Spurn on 11th. Up to two were present at Axle Lane, Sheffield throughout the month. October followed a similar pattern, with 20 at Cornfield NR on 2nd, six at Hempholme Lock on 17th, two at Staveley NR on 25th, four at Spurn and 18 at Helperthorpe on 30th and, finally, seven at North Cave, 25 at East Cottingwith and 28 at Poppleton all on 31st.

Only in November did numbers increase, with 18 at Helperthorpe and 55 at Melbourne Reedbed, both on 6th, 18 at Hatfield Moors the next day, 17 at Buckton on 10th, 16 at Huggin Carr and 30 at Hatfield Moors on 14th, one at Spurn on 20th, 35 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 24th November, a staggering 250 at East Cottingwith on 26th, two at Tannerbeck, Harrogate on 27th, 106 at Flamborough on 28th, 118 at Cornfield NR on 29th and a maximum of four at Spurn on several dates.

The final month produced two at Thrybergh CP on 1st, with a single at the same location on 10th, 51 at Cornfield NR on 7th, 20 at Sunk Island and two east over Southfield Res on 11th, 24 at Ellerton on 19th and 50 at Dunnington on 31st. Numbers at Flamborough increased during December to 120 and, what was almost certainly the same flock, saw the year out as it had begun, with 130 at Buckton on 31st December.

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Category B

Species recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (N Africa, S Eurasia) **BDE***
Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

Some Yorkshire records of this species occur in the summer and autumn months on the Humber, especially the upper Humber area. Approximately 300 post-breeding moulting birds of presumably feral origin occur in the Netherlands at that time, and it is possible that some overshoot. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* that leave Yorkshire to moult in the Waddenzee area of Germany may also ‘pick up’ Ruddy Shelduck on their return later in autumn. Other birds escape from collections however.

A single accompanied the Barnacle Geese at Hornsea Mere on 9th January and was presumably the same individual present in December 2009 and also responsible for a sighting at Skirlington later in January. A female stayed at Beal Carrs from 14th–23rd February and a single made sporadic appearances at Flamborough from 24th April until 19th May. Elsewhere, singles visited Gembling on 1st/2nd April, and again on 15th May, and one arrived at Pugney’s CP on 28th April. In June, two dropped in at Watton NR on 13th and a duo arrived at Potteric Carr on 24th.

The second half of the year started with up to seven on the Humber at Whitton Sands from 24th–26th July, one stayed at Hornsea Mere from 1st–17th August, before moving to Bewholme Hall on 21st August. Elsewhere, three flew off north–west from Spurn on 4th August. In September, four dropped in at Pugney’s CP on 1st, and on the same date, three were at Nosterfield NR and a single returned to Bewholme Hall from 10th–18th. Presumably the same individual relocated to Hornsea Mere on 5th October and then Skirlington on 20th. The final records for the year related to a single at Starr Carr, Scarborough from 18th–24th December and Scalby Lodge Pond on 29th.

Category E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the BOU category C or E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. These letters follow the publication of the BOURC’s review of Category C (*Ibis* 147: 803–819).

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* (S America, Africa and India) **E**
Two flew north past Flamborough on 4th July.

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata* (S America) **E**
Two appeared on Scaling Dam on 29th April and from 11th May until 8th June.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* (Australia) **E**
Adults were present through most of the year at Hornsea Mere and at Fairburn Ings, where at least one pair bred and had three cygnets in May, although only one still survived by September; a maximum of seven were in residence at Fairburn in November. Elsewhere, a pair held territory at Allerthorpe and although the female was found dead in July, the male was present to the year–end. A pair also bred at Sandall Park, Doncaster, where they raised one cygnet and, during the autumn, they were joined by another adult. Another pair bred at Everingham Park, where a family party of five was present in July.

Elsewhere, up to two were also occasionally present at North Cave and two were in the Pulfin & High Eske area from the end of May until August. Two visited Doncaster Lakeside on 4th January and Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 3rd February. A single on the River Aire in Leeds accompanied an immature Mute Swan on 10th/11th March, with one at Swillington Ings the following day. A single joined Whooper Swans at Thorne Moors on 17th April. In the Hull Valley, two were at Tophill Low on 2nd and 7th June and the same remained throughout August. Adjacent to the Humber, a single stayed at Welton Waters from 3rd June until 12th July and, possibly the same, re–appeared on 28th November. A single again frequented the River Aire in Leeds from 6th–16th October, with one west over Beal Carrs with Whooper Swans on 20th. Two remained at Peasholm Park on 8th November, followed by a single at Cowling on 10th of the same month, with two present there during December.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* (E Asia) **E**

A single at Scaling Dam on 21st January may have been responsible for sightings from this site since 2006. Elsewhere, on 21st February one appeared at Golden Acre Park, Leeds, when two were also on Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough. One accompanied Greylags at Allerthorpe between May and August and a single visited Everingham on 11th July. A single remained in residence at Thrybergh CP all year and one appeared at Broomhill on 19th December.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (S Asia) **E**

At the start of the year, lone individuals were at Rodley NR from 1st January until 27th February, at Hay–a–Park GP on 17th January, at Fairburn Ings from 1st February until 6th March and at Swillington Ings from 2nd February until 7th March. Elsewhere, a single joined Greylags at Elvington SW on 3rd January, while in March, singles were also recorded at Mickletown Ings on 14th and at Hornsea Mere on 15th. In May, Rother Valley CP hosted a single on 9th.

Over the summer, three headed south over Spurn on 4th June and one stayed at Swillington Ings from the start of July until the end of August. Additional records from the latter month included a single at Fairburn Ings from 12th–18th and two at Rother Valley CP on 19th. In the final quarter, lone individuals appeared at both Pepper Arden and Swillington Ings on 2nd October, one was at East Park, Hull on 12th November, a single dropped in at Southfield Res on 20th, one fed with Greylags at Buttercrambe, near York on 13th December and one flew west over Marley on 30th. In addition, one/two remained in residence at both Eccup Res and Allerthorpe through most of the year.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (N America & Siberia) **AC2E**

Small numbers associated with other goose species, such as the one or two that were present for most of the year at Harewood Park. A single appeared at Ripon Parks on 10th March and Hay–a–Park GP on 28th May. Elsewhere, a first–summer lingered at Anglers CP from 18th–25th June and, during July, singles were occasionally recorded at Hay–a–Park GP and then at North Cave on 23rd. Singles visited Eccup Res on 30th August and Lindley Wood Res on 11th September. Six flew over Spurn on 16th October and a single appeared at Great Broughton on 13th November. There was a regular flock throughout at York University, with 19 adults (11 white and eight blue–phase) present on 8th July, together with a single white phase juvenile; 20 remained on 13th September.

ROSS’S GOOSE *Anser rossii* (N America) **E**

A single frequented Harewood Park on 17th January and 16th May and one associated with Greylags at Edderthorpe Flash between January and March and subsequently remained to the year end, visiting other wetlands in the area, including Wombwell Ings, Old Moor and Broomhill Flash. Elsewhere, a single remained at Netherwood CP from 16th February until 4th March and one dropped in at Wombwell Ings on 19th February. A single was noted at various locations in the Harrogate area, including Staveley GP and in the Nosterfield area, from early May until October, and also resided at Hay–a–Park GP from 6th June to the end of July.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (E Greenland, Svalbard, Russia) **AC2E**

Some of these records may refer to genuine wild birds, rather than birds belonging to the feral population.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hornsea Mere	56	79	66	–	–	–	–	–	–	40	98	–
North Humber	1	1	115	42	–	–	–	–	–	91	80	–

At the start of the year, seven visited Hatfield Moors and lone birds were at both Pugney’s CP and Eccup Res on 17th, one at Horbury Wyke on 20th, three at Bolton–on–Swale GP on 29th and one stayed at Ogden Res from 2nd January until 5th March and was also thought to be responsible for a sighting at Mixenden on 19th February. A single at Bretton Park lingered throughout the year. Elsewhere in February, a single remained at Peasholm Park for most of the month and one dropped in at Staveley on 18th. Eight were at Old Moor between 19th February and 1st March and there were occasional sightings at Fairburn Ings during this period. Elsewhere, there were three at Wykeham Lakes from 7th February until 6th March, with four present on 13th and five on 21st March. Additional March records included nine in the Pulfin & High Eske area from 11th–14th, one at Cold Edge Dams from 12th–19th, seven at Bolton–on–Swale GP on 14th, when one was also at Castle Howard, a

single at Wainstalls on 15th and four visited Welton Dale on 21st. A maximum of six lingered in the Pulfin & High Eske area from 17th March until 6th April. Elsewhere in April, there were lone individuals at Ogden Res on 16th and Rodley NR on 18th and there were two at Castle Howard on 25th. Wykeham Lakes hosted a duo from 6th April, with just one present from 9th April until 24th May, paired to a Canada Goose. In May, a single stayed at Edderthorpe Flash on 28/29th and two were at Old Moor from 16th–21st June.

The Humber holds a substantial population, although there was no detailed information regarding breeding. In January, there were 21 at Sunk Island on 18th, with 89 at Whitton Sands on 14th March and, on the same date, 26 near Patrington. In April, five flew down the Humber past Spurn on 18th and, on the same day, there were 41 on Whitton Sands. On 23rd May, seven flew south past Spurn and six were at Sunk Island, with smaller numbers present there on other dates.

Over the summer there were up to three at Castle Howard in June, two at Old Moor from 16th–21st June, one was present at Hay–a–Park GP from 12th June until mid August, ten were at Flamingoland in June, with 87 present in August. Elsewhere in July, there were three at Sunk Island and one at West Ness Hall on 29th. August records included 70 at North Cave on 10th, a single at Blacktoft Sands on 13th and a single at Filey Dams from mid month that remained to the year–end. In addition, there were ten at Eccup Res on 26th August, while in September, there were 25 at Broomfleet on 4th, one at Burton Riggs on 20th and four at Sunk Island on 26th. In October, there were 24 at Pepper Arden on 2nd and five in the Filey Dams area over 13/14th.

November produced 20 at Harewood Park on 14th, singles at North Cave on 18th, Slingsby Carr on 19th and Otley Wetlands on 29th, while 18 visited Blacktoft Sands on 24th. In December, there were 23 at Eccup Res from 7th–12th and singles at Pugney’s CP on 26th, Anglers CP from 11th and Horbury Wyke from 27th until the end of the year.

Hybrids

During the autumn, Barnacle x Canada Goose and Barnacle x Greylag Goose hybrids visited North Cave and a Barnacle x Canada Goose hybrid dropped in at Winterset Res on 26th November. A Barnacle x Snow Goose lingered at Gouthwaite Res in April and May, with presumably the same, responsible for sightings at Flasks Lake in July and at Lingham Lake and Nosterfield NR from September through to early November.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* (S Africa) **E**

A resident single at Thrybergh CP from 1st January was picked up dead in mid March.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (S America) **E**

Under recorded, the year began with two on the River Calder near Sands Lane GP on 19th January, with three present on 24th February and two on 18th May. The only other spring record related to two at Burton Agnes Mere on 8th February. One was at Guisborough on 1st June and up to four were resident at Hillsborough Park, Sheffield from mid July until the end of the year. Elsewhere, singles were at Bishop Burton in May and Batley Wilton Park in November.

RINGED TEAL *Calonetta leucophrys* (S America) **E**

Over the summer, a female was at Scaling Dam on 8th, 25th and 28th June. Elsewhere, a male remained on the River Calder between Horbury Strands and Horbury Wyke from 6th–17th December. A male was also on the River Hull at Dunswell during the year.

BRAZILIAN TEAL *Amazonetta brasiliensis* **E**

A male visited Scout Dike Res on 17th April.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (N America) **E**

A female was on the River Aire at Marley on 9th January, with one at Otley on 15th March. Elsewhere, a male was on Scaling Dam on 9th April and, what may have been the same, was present from 24th May until 8th June, on 10th July and then from 20th–23rd September. In addition, a male was on the River Foss at Huntington on 12th December.

MANED DUCK *Chenonetta jubata* (Australia) **E**

A single appeared on the River Aire at Dowley Gap, Bingley on 3rd February.

CHILOE WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix* (S America) **E**

A male was present at Swillington Ings from 16th September until 27th November.

AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELER *Anas rhynchos* (S Australia) **E**

Potteric Carr hosted one on 7th November.

HARRIS’S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* **E**

A single made sporadic appearances at Swillington Park from 3rd January until 9th February and Woodlesford on 20th February and was presumed to be the individual present in the area for the last couple of years. Flamborough hosted a single during the first two weeks of April, with one at Sammy’s Point on 14th and in the Triangle at Spurn on 16th April, followed by another well inland at Brighthouse on 22nd April. Singles were observed over Wykeham Raptor Viewpoint on 11th August and at Drewton, near Hull, on 25th October. The male remained in the Sharow area all year, breeding successfully with a Common Buzzard and rearing two young.

SWAINSON’S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni* **E**

One appeared at Barden Scale on 3rd and 11th August.

RED–TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis* **E**

A single visited Winterbottan Busks near Barnsley on 6th September.

LANNER *Falco biarmicus* **E**

A male appeared paired with a female Peregrine at Howdale Moor near Scarborough on 28th January. A single wearing jesses flew over Pit–House West on 13th November.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus* **A**

A white phase individual flew west past the sailing club at Southfield Res on 25th November and had leather straps hanging from its legs.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* **E**

One was reported at Fairburn on 14th February. A single present in Pateley Bridge and its environs for most of January and early February moved as far down the valley as Glasshouses and, given its approachability, was almost certainly a recent escape. However, on at least one occasion, observers reported hearing the calls answered by another individual. What may have been the same, also appeared at Scar House Res in April. A single, without jesses or rings, was picked up from the central reservation of the A63, just west of the Humber Bridge, on 15th October.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* **C**

A male appeared at Bretton Lakes on 13th May.

LADY AMHERST’S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae* **C**

A male graced Upperthong, Huddersfield on 17th/18th August.

COMMON PEA FOWL *Pavo cristatus* **E**

Morthen, near Sheffield, hosted a single on 11th February.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE *Colinus virginianus* **E**

One remained at Whitwell Moor, near Barnsley, from 10th May until 27th August and presumably originated from five that escaped from a Stocksbridge garden.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulates* **E**

A single appeared in a Silsden garden on 23rd January, with a ‘yellow’ individual in Cottingham on 26th March, one at Lemonroyd on 24th June and a ‘blue’ individual appeared at the Point, Spurn on 5th October.

ORANGE–WINGED AMAZON PARROT *Amazona amazonica* **E**

Two remained in Cottingham churchyard all year.

RED–RUMPED PARROT *Psephotus haematonotus* **E**

A single appeared in Ecclesall, Sheffield on 28th May and remained nearby on 1st June.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* **E**
A single appeared in Cottingham on 22nd April.

ROSY-FACED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis roseicollis* **E**
One appeared in a Skelton garden on 1st May.

HARTLAUB’S TURACO *Tauraco hartlaubi* **E**
A single graced Nunthorpe on 28th April.

Additions and corrections to previous Reports

Corrections to 2009 Report

Pectoral Sandpiper: Present on Hatfield Moors from 6th–9th September, not May as published.

Red-backed Shrike: male in the Triangle at Spurn present on 9th/10th June not May as published.

Additions to 2009 Report

Mandarin: male on Buckton Pond 30th August–16th October.

Garganey: male on Buckton Pond from 16th–18th May.

Black-necked Grebe: a pair attempted to breed in the Harrogate area, but failed.

Bluethroat: A singing male was sound recorded from the edge of a wheat field, adjacent to a dyke, at Patrington Haven on 10th June (BR). Not present subsequently.

Marsh Warbler: The singing male near Tunstall on 3rd June was still present on 12th July, when observed carrying food and presumed to be breeding.

Willow Tit: North Cliffe Wood hosted a singing male on 22nd April.

Additions to 2008 Report

Willow Tit: Eastrington Ponds, Howden hosted a pair on 16th April.

Golden Oriole: a male singing at Locke Avenue, Barnsley on 8th June, represented the ninth record for the area (IH).

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Early and late dates of migrants



Species	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Garganey*	9th March	20th October
Hobby	16th April	1st November
Little Ringed Plover	7th March	21st September
Whimbrel	4th April	5th October
Wood Sandpiper	24th April	30th September
Common Sandpiper	28th March	14th November
Little Tern	17th April	15th September
Black Tern	23rd April	7th November
Sandwich Tern	25th March	6th November
Common Tern	31st March	8th October
Roseate Tern	27th June	11th September
Arctic Tern	13th April	8th November
Turtle Dove	1st May	30th October
Cuckoo	8th April	2nd September
Swift	17th April	21st October
Sand Martin	11th March	19th October
Swallow	13th March	14th November
House Martin	23rd March	6th November
Tree Pipit	8th April	14th October
Yellow Wagtail	31st March	30th October
Redstart	7th April	24th October
Whinchat	18th April	12th October
Wheatear	2nd March	23rd November
Ring Ouzel*	21st March	15th November
Grasshopper Warbler	9th April	10th October
Sedge Warbler	9th April	13th October
Reed Warbler	9th April	20th October
Garden Warbler	16th April	13th October
Lesser Whitethroat	15th April	18th October
Common Whitethroat	7th April	11th October
Wood Warbler	11th April	17th October
Willow Warbler	21st March	13th November
Spotted Flycatcher	3rd May	13th October
Pied Flycatcher	24th April	11th October

* assumed first genuine spring migrant



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (Flamborough) • Richard Baines

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Flamborough

1st-3rd September 2010



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler • John Harwood

Low pressure systems had dominated the UK for many days, but finally a high established briefly, so I decided to take a couple of days off and work the Headland carefully. Setting out from the Lighthouse towards Old Fall, initial rewards were confined to a scattering of common migrants, a Barred Warbler in the corner of the 'Gorse Field' and three Lapland Bunting flying overhead. At 0930hrs I arrived at the southern side of Old Fall and scanned the edge of the wood.

Having had nothing other than single Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher and Chiffchaff in 25 minutes, I was contemplating walking off when there was a movement in a hawthorn. Raising my bins, I could see a largely obscured passerine with only the belly and part of the wing visible. My initial thoughts were possible Garden Warbler and I trained my scope on the bush and waited.

After a few seconds it shifted and I could make out the head - the long bill ruled out a *sylvia* and the overall facial pattern suggested a *hippo*, while the pale

grey-brown crown was very interesting. Excitement mounting, I waited for the wings to show and when they did there were pale edges to several of the feather tracts. The overall feel suggested Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and I waited a couple more seconds for the tail to show. Thankfully the warbler obliged by moving into full view, dipped its tail three times and that was it – I went to pieces! Eventually I was able to re-check I wasn't going mad and simultaneously rang a few locals with the news of 'a rare hippo, get to Old Fall now!'

Whilst waiting for the entourage to arrive, I started to cross-reference the main features. It felt Reed Warbler size, the forehead sloped to a peak behind the eye and the primary projection was almost two-thirds the length of exposed tertials. The upperparts were a pallid grey-brown tone, while the supercilium was relatively subdued and ended just behind the eye. Importantly the tertials were dark centred with contrasting edges, while the greater

coverts and secondaries were edged pale, the latter forming a pale panel. The face and flanks were buff, although this feature was often bleached-out in bright light. A thin white edge was present on the square-ended tail, which was repeatedly dipped.

Although seeming an age at the time, Phil Cunningham, Richard Baines and Andy Malley arrived soon enough and, although the warbler was initially out of sight, it eventually gave itself up (or at least bits of it). Features were checked and re-checked and, in addition, we were also able to confirm that the 'tchack' call emanating from the bushes was coming from the warbler.

Simon Waines, the farmer, was informed and gave his consent to set up a car-park, signs were made and we were ready for a full-scale twitch. After a short deliberation I rang out the news – well if it was wrong, I'd just have to take up stamp-collecting next week!

In total over 520 birders enjoyed the warbler before mid-afternoon on 3rd September, when it finally disappeared. It remained faithful to the southern corner of Old Fall and the adjacent hedge, although it could go missing for a couple of hours at a time. A total of £640 was raised for charity, split between St Catherine's Hospice in Scarborough and

conservation projects on the Headland. Thanks are due to the Waines family for yet again hosting a twitch on their land and to Richard and other local birders for helping facilitate the event.

Breeding from the Balkans across into Iran and northern Afghanistan, the species winters in East Africa. The BOU recently split 'Olivaceous Warbler' into two species: the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *H. pallida* and the monotypic Western Olivaceous Warbler *H. opaca*. Although the latter species has yet to turn up in the UK, there have been 13 previous records of *H. pallida*, with the first on the Isle of May in September 1967. The majority have arrived from mid-August through until October, although there are additional records in May, June and July. Few have chosen to linger on the mainland, with individuals at Benacre in August 1995 and Collieston in September 2000 the notable exceptions. After a review of older records conducted by BBRC in 1999, a previously accepted claim in the county was rejected (ironically, from Flamborough in October 1976), so this record represents the first for Yorkshire.

Craig Thomas



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler © John Harwood



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North Yorkshire

Mute Swan

The longevity record for this species is: 26 years 9 months 22 days set in 2005.

Z85640	First-year Male	20-08-1995	Halmer End: 53°2'N 2°18'W (Staffordshire)
	Alive (ring read in field)	26-04-2010	Carlton Miniott Caravan Park, near Thirsk: 54°13'N 1°23'W (North Yorkshire) 145km NNE 14y 8m 6d
Z95433	First-year Male	07-08-1999	Billingham: 54°35'N 1°17'W (Cleveland)
	Alive (natural causes)	04-02-2010	University of York, York: 53°56'N 1°3'W (North Yorkshire) 74km S 10y 5m 28d

Whooper Swan

The longevity record for this species is: 23 years 3 months 7 days set in 2003.

W09345	First-year Male	16-12-2005	North Duffield, Selby: 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02-04-2009	Vik, Lon, Austur-Skaftafells: 64°25'N 14°40'W Iceland 1,410km NNW 3y 3m 17d

Greylag Goose

The longevity record for this species is: 18 years 8 months 2 days set in 1984.

SVS 9250959	Adult	05-06-2000	Yddingen: 55°33'N 13°16'E (Malmöhus) Sweden
	Alive (neck collar seen)	28-02-2010	Druridge Bay: 55°15'N 1°35'W (Northumberland) 938km W 9y 8m 23d
	Alive (neck collar seen)	10-04-2010	Monks House Pool: 55°35'N 1°41'W (Northumberland) 940km W 9y 10m 5d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	23-04-2010	Scalby Lodge, Scarborough: 54°18'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire) 885km W 9y 10m 18d

Wigeon

The longevity record for this species is: 34 years 7 months 0 days set in 1996.

FP78611	Adult Male	13-12-2004	North Duffield: 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	08-04-2010	Savelovo, Staroyurevskiy District: 53°13'N 40°47'E (Tambov) Russia 2,758km E 5y 3m 26d

Teal

The longevity record for this species is: 18 years 20 days set in 1988.

EL49846	Adult Female	12-11-2007	Skipwith Common Nature Reserve, York: 53°49'N 1°1'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	27-08-2009	Parnansuo, Pyhaselka, Joensuu: 62°25'N 30°3'E (Kuopio) Finland 2,049km ENE 1y 9m 15d

Storm Petrel

The longevity record for this species is: 35 years 9 months 27 days set in 2010.

2559115	Adult	19-07-2005	Filey Brigg Country Park: 54°13'N 0°18'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	12-06-2010	Inishirahull: 55°26'N 7°15'W (Donegal) 465km WNW 4y 10m 24d

Cormorant

The longevity record for this species is: 23 years 6 months 28 days set in 1992.

G1781	Nestling	26-04-2009	Abberton Reservoir, near Colchester: 51°49'N 0°51'E (Essex)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23-05-2010	Tittesworth Reservoir: 53°7'N 2°0'W (Staffordshire) 241km NW 1y 0m 27d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-07-2010	Farnham Gravel Pit: 54°2'N 1°29'W (North Yorkshire) 292km NNW 1y 2m 20d

Shag

The longevity record for this species is: 29 years 10 months 25 days set in 2007.

1315788	Nestling	08-06-1995	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11-02-2007	Scarborough: 54°16'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire) 253km SSE 11y 8m 3d
1418224	Nestling	23-06-2010	Inchmickery, Firth of Forth: 56°0'N 3°17'W (Lothian Region)
	Freshly dead	01-10-2010	Filey: 54°13'N 0°17'W (North Yorkshire) 275km SE 0y 3m 8d
1416945	Nestling	10-06-2009	Inchmickery, Firth of Forth: 56°0'N 3°17'W (Lothian Region)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	08-08-2009	Port Seaton: 55°58'N 2°58'W (Lothian Region) 21km ESE 0y 1m 29d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	25-01-2010	Scarborough: 54°17'N 0°24'W (North Yorkshire) 265km SE 0y 7m 15d
1418377	Nestling	26-06-2010	Craigleith, Firth of Forth: 56°4'N 2°43'W (Lothian Region)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-09-2010	Filey: 54°13'N 0°17'W (North Yorkshire) 258km SE 0y 2m 24d
1452508	Nestling	18-07-2010	Isle of May: 56°11'N 2°34'W (Fife Region)
	Freshly dead (storm)	20-11-2010	Cayton Bay, Scarborough: 54°14'N 0°22'W (North Yorkshire) 258km SSE 0y 4m 2d

Little Egret

The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 6 months 25 days set in 2010.

GC85744	Nestling	22-05-2010	near The Laurels Farm, Terrington St Clement: 52°47'N 0°19'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2010	Nosterfield N R, near West Tanfield: 54°12'N 1°35'W (North Yorkshire) 202km NW 0y 1m 26d
GC85746	Nestling	22-05-2010	near The Laurels Farm, Terrington St Clement: 52°47'N 0°19'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-07-2010	Great Heck: 53°40'N 1°8'W (North Yorkshire) 138km NW 0y 1m 15d

Goshawk

The longevity record for this species is: 18 years 8 months 27 days set in 2009.

GC30340	Nestling Male	19-06-2010	Site Confidential, North York Moors: 54°11'N 0°41'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead	15-08-2010	Rotherham: 53°25'N 1°21'W (South Yorkshire) 96km SSW 0y 1m 27d

Osprey

The longevity record for this species is: 20 years 11 months 0 days set in 2005.

1272576	Nestling Male	03-07-1992	Tore, Black Isle: 57°32'N 4°20'W (Highland Region)
	Freshly dead (injury)	04-04-2010	Carperby, Leyburn: 54°18'N 2°0'W (North Yorkshire) 388km SSE 17y 9m 1d

Merlin

The longevity record for this species is: 12 years 8 months 17 days set in 1989.

DB54071	Nestling Male	24-06-2008	Barden Moor: 54°1'N 1°59'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead	01-09-2010	Widecombe: 50°34'N 3°48'W (Devon) 403km SSW 2y 2m 8d

Coot

The longevity record for this species is: 15 years 3 months 13 days set in 1978.

GC59952	First-year Female	23-10-2008	North Duffield, Selby: 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	03-11-2008	Elton Flashes, Sandbach: 53°8'N 2°25'W (Cheshire) 124km SW 0y 0m 11d
	Alive (ring read in field)	12-12-2010	Preston Docks: 53°45'N 2°45'W (Lancashire) 119km W 2y 1m 19d

Golden Plover

The longevity record for this species is: 12 years 29 days set in 1978.

DB32336	Nestling Female	28-05-2005	near Danby: 54°29'N 0°53'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	10-06-2010	Gordonbush: 58°6'N 3°55'W (Highland Region) 444km NNW 5y 0m 13d

Lapwing

The longevity record for this species is: 21 years 1 month 15 days set in 1987.

DD64297	Nestling	27-05-2009	Denton Park: 53°55'N 1°46'W (North Yorkshire)
	Dead	15-12-2009	Melgven: 47°54'N 3°50'W (Finistere) France 684km SSW 0y 6m 18d

Black-headed Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 29 years 3 months 12 days.

SFH	Nestling	29-06-2000	Kokkola: 63°58'N 22°52'E (Vaasa) Finland
ST211800	Alive (ring read in field)	10-03-2010	Scarborough: 54°16'N 0°24'W (North Yorkshire) 1,702km SW 5y 8m 9d

Common Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 25 years 16 days set in 2008.

NOS	Nestling	27-08-2009	Meyerparken, Mo, Rana: 66°18'N 14°8'E (Nordland) Norway
5178568	Freshly dead (injury)	11-10-2010	Pateley Bridge: 54°5'N 1°45'W (North Yorkshire) 1,610km SSW 1y 1m 14d

Herring Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 30 years 11 months 15 days set in 2009.

GN78433	Adult	30-11-2007	Seamer Carr Landfill, Scarborough: 54°13'N 0°25'W (North Yorkshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13-12-2007	Blaringhem: 50°41'N 2°24'E (Nord) France 437km SSE 0y 0m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-01-2008	Blaringhem: 50°41'N 2°24'E (Nord) France 437km SSE 0y 1m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17-02-2010	Boulogne-Sur-Mer Harbour: 50°42'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 414km SSE 2y 2m 18d

Barn Owl

The longevity record for this species is: 14 years 7 months 22 days set in 2007.

GC90953	Nestling	27-06-2009	Maltby Le Marsh, near Alford: 53°18'N 0°11'E (Lincolnshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	18-02-2010	near Huntington: 53°59'N 1°2'W (North Yorkshire) 111km NW 0y 7m 22d
GC68219	Nestling	13-07-2009	Fledborough, near Newark: 53°14'N 0°47'W (Nottinghamshire)
	Dead (in building)	28-04-2010	Manor Farm, Kirby Hill: 54°6'N 1°24'W (North Yorkshire) 105km NNW 0y 9m 15d

Meadow Pipit

The longevity record for this species is: 7 years 1 month 30 days set in 1981.

T838115	First-year	08-09-2010	Downholme: 54°23'N 1°49'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	19-09-2010	Whitchurch: 51°14'N 1°20'W (Hampshire) 352km S oy om 11d

Waxwing

The longevity record for this species is: 2 years 11 months 24 days set in 1977.

NW50410	First-year Male	05-11-2010	Duthie Park, Aberdeen: 57°7'N 2°7'W (Grampian Region)
	Freshly dead	08-12-2010	Kirk Hammerton, York: 53°59'N 1°18'W (North Yorkshire) 352km S oy 1m 3d

Blackbird

The longevity record for this species is: 14 years 2 months 1 day set in 1951.

SVS	Adult Female	28-03-2009	Nidingen, Onsala: 57°18'N 11°54'E (Halland) Sweden
4572270	Freshly dead (hit by car)	20-03-2010	Rufforth: 53°57'N 1°12'W (North Yorkshire) 902km WSW oy 11m 20d
DEW	Adult Male	07-03-2009	Helgoland: 54°10'N 7°55'E (Helgoland) Germany
7861349	Caught by ringer	22-12-2009	Sharow Grange, Ripon: 54°8'N 1°31'W (North Yorkshire) 614km W oy 9m 15d

Redwing

The longevity record for this species is: 11 years 10 months 7 days set in 1988.

RS65108	Full-grown Male	17-04-2010	Eshton Tarn: 54°0'N 2°8'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	01-08-2010	Tjultrask, Ammarnas: 65°58'N 16°5'E (Vasterbotten) Sweden 1,664km NE oy 3m 15d

Garden Warbler

The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 10 months 24 days set in 2006.

V619909	First-year	08-08-2010	Catterick Garrison: 54°22'N 1°44'W (North Yorkshire)
	Freshly dead	22-08-2010	Gommerville: 48°20'N 1°56'E (Eure-et-Loire) France 717km SSE oy om 14d

Pallas’ Warbler

No individual ringed in Britain & Ireland has been recovered more than three years since ringing.

NLA	Full-grown	27-10-2010	Nijefurd, Warns: 52°52'N 5°24'E (Friesland) The Netherlands
Y97899	Caught by ringer	31-10-2010	near Black Nab, Whitby: 54°28'N 0°35'W (North Yorkshire) 433km WNW oy om 4d

Chiffchaff

The longevity record for this species is: 7 years 7 months 24 days set in 1997.

8Z2095	Full-grown	06-09-2009	Catterick Garrison: 54°22'N 1°44'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	24-03-2010	Jews Gate: 36°8'N 5°20'W Gibraltar 2,045km S oy 6m 18d

Pied Flycatcher

The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 7 days set in 2001.

Xo90878	Nestling Female	09-06-2009	near Strata Florida: 52°17'N 3°51'W (Dyfed)
	Caught by ringer	08-06-2010	Dacre Banks (Bryan’s Wood): 54°3'N 1°44'W (North Yorkshire) 242km NE oy 11m 30d

Goldfinch

The longevity record for this species is: 8 years 8 months 4 days set in 2004.

L339842	Adult	14-10-2010	Knaresborough: 54°1'N 1°30'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	14-11-2010	Pett Level: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 377km SSE oy 1m od

Common Redpoll

The longevity record for this species is: 2 years 5 months 26 days set in 1962.

L265940	Full-grown Female	16-10-2010	Filey Brigg Country Park: 54°13'N 0°18'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	14-11-2010	Landguard Point, Felixstowe: 51°56'N 1°19'E (Suffolk) 276km SSE oy om 29d

Lesser Redpoll

The longevity record for this species is: 6 years 26 days set in 1997.

X561668	First-year	27-09-2009	Catterick Garrison: 54°22'N 1°44'W (North Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	02-11-2009	Sourbrodt: 50°29'N 6°8'E (Liege) Belgium 686km SE oy 1m 6d

South Yorkshire

Mute Swan

The longevity record for this species is: 26 years 9 months 22 days set in 2005.

X6619	First-year	07-10-2006	Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow: 55°52'N 4°10'W (Strathclyde)
	Alive (ring read in field)	20-07-2010	Rother Valley Country Park, near Killamarsh: 53°20'N 1°19'W (South Yorkshire) 336km SSE 3y 9m 13d

Cormorant

The longevity record for this species is: 23 years 6 months 28 days set in 1992.

DKC	Nestling	28-05-2010	Rommerholm, Nakskov Fjord: 54°51'N 11°2'E (Lolland) Denmark
2J4915	Freshly dead	07-10-2010	Askern: 53°37'N 1°9'W (South Yorkshire) 803km W oy 4m 9d

Little Egret

The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 6 months 25 days set in 2010.

GJ54711	Nestling	08-06-2008	near The Laurels Farm, Terrington St Clement: 52°47'N 0°19'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2010	Potteric Carr Nature Reserve: 53°29'N 1°7'W (South Yorkshire) 124km NW 2y 1m 10d

Black-headed Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 29 years 3 months 12 days set in 2010.

EG89858	Nestling	31-05-2003	Thorne Moor: 53°37'N 0°54'W (South Yorkshire)
	Sick (in building)	07-12-2010	Christendom, Waterford: 52°15'N 7°5'W (Waterford) 441km WSW 7y 6m 6d

Mediterranean Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 15 years 3 months 7 days set in 2006.

PLG	Adult	20-05-2003	Skoki-Duze Gravel Pit: 52°36'N 19°25'E (Wroclawek) Poland
FN16022			

Alive (colour rings seen)	09-09-2006	Porth Neigwl: 52°49'N 4°35'W (Gwynedd) 1,616km W 3y 3m 20d
Alive (colour rings seen)	11-10-2006	Aberdaron: 52°48'N 4°43'W (Gwynedd) 1,625km W 3y 4m 21d
Alive (colour rings seen)	01-07-2008	Old Moor, Barnsley: 53°31'N 1°22'W (South Yorkshire) 1,392km W 5y 1m 11d

Barn Owl

The longevity record for this species is: 14 years 7 months 22 days set in 2007.

GN92740	Nestling	08-07-2004	Ell's Farm, Broughton: 52°2'N 1°23'W (Oxfordshire)
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	06-07-2010	Darton: 53°36'N 1°34'W (South Yorkshire) 175km N 5y 11m 28d

House Martin

The longevity record for this species is: 7 years 1 month 12 days set in 2002.

X746541	First-year	11-09-2009	Pett Level: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex)
	Caught by ringer	29-05-2010	Norton, near Doncaster: 53°38'N 1°11'W (South Yorkshire) 329km NNW oy 8m 18d

Robin

The longevity record for this species is: 8 years 4 months 30 days set in 1977.

X800551	First-year	21-08-2010	Treeton: 53°23'N 1°21'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	10-09-2010	Pett Level: 50°54'N 0°40'E (Sussex) 309km SSE oy om 20d

Blackbird

The longevity record for this species is: 14 years 2 months 1 day set in 1951.

SVS 4606649	First-year	30-06-2010	Nissakall, Orkelljunga: 56°18'N 13°13'E (Kristianstad) Sweden
	Freshly dead	28-12-2010	Thurcroft: 53°24'N 1°15'W (South Yorkshire) 980km WSW oy 5m 28d

Cetti's Warbler

The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 3 months 28 days set in 2008.

X996468	Full-grown	24-04-2010	Holme Bird Observatory: 52°58'N 0°33'E (Norfolk)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	01-12-2010	Lindholme: 53°32'N 0°58'W (South Yorkshire) 119km WNW oy 7m 7d

Blackcap

The longevity record for this species is: 10 years 8 months 15 days set in 1988.

V317709	First-year Male	29-04-2007	Tinsley Sewage Works: 53°25'N 1°24'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	04-10-2009	Loza: 42°50'N 1°43'W (Navarra) Spain 1,177km S 2y 5m 5d

Chiffchaff

The longevity record for this species is: 7 years 7 months 24 days set in 1997.

DEC591	First-year Male	30-08-2010	Norton, near Doncaster: 53°38'N 1°11'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	24-09-2010	Lebbeke: 51°0'N 4°8'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium 465km SE oy om 25d

Goldcrest

The longevity record for this species is: 4 years 10 months 9 days set in 1994.

CPN577	Full-grown Male	13-10-2008	Old Stores Meadow Nature Reserve, Capel: 51°9'N 0°20'W (Surrey)
	Caught by ringer	04-10-2009	Melton Wood, near Doncaster: 53°31'N 1°14'W (South Yorkshire) 270km NNW oy 11m 21d

	Caught by ringer	27-02-2010	Melton Wood, near Doncaster: 53°31'N 1°14'W (South Yorkshire) 270km NNW 1y 4m 14d
	Caught by ringer	09-10-2010	Melton Wood, near Doncaster: 53°31'N 1°14'W (South Yorkshire) 270km NNW 1y 11m 26d

Redpoll (Common/Lesser)

The longevity record for this species is: 8 years 5 months 22 days set in 1994.

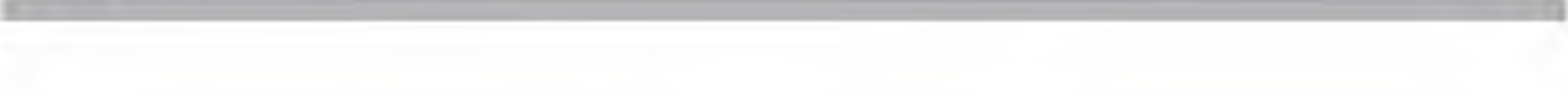
X103898	First-year	17-10-2009	Denaby Ings Nature Reserve, Cadeby: 53°30'N 1°15'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	11-04-2010	Middelkerke: 51°11'N 2°50'E (West-Vlaanderen) Belgium 379km SE oy 5m 25d

Lesser Redpoll

The longevity record for this species is: 6 years 26 days set in 1997.

V536228	First-year Male	14-12-2009	High Hazels Park, Darnall: 53°23'N 1°24'W (South Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	15-11-2010	Grand Rechain: 50°36'N 5°49'E (Liege) Belgium 583km ESE oy 11m 1d

West Yorkshire



Pochard

The longevity record for this species is: 22 years 10 days set in 1999.

FRP DA261074	Full-grown Male	29-01-2008	Lac Des Minimes, Paris: 48°50'N 2°27'E (Seine-et-Oise & Seine) France
	Alive	25-09-2009	Brewood: 52°40'N 2°11'W (Staffordshire) 536km NW 1y 7m 27d
	Alive	25-10-2009	Brewood: 52°40'N 2°11'W (Staffordshire) 536km NW 1y 8m 26d
	Alive	12-09-2010	Ryhill: 53°37'N 1°25'W (West Yorkshire) 597km NNW 2y 7m 14d

Little Egret

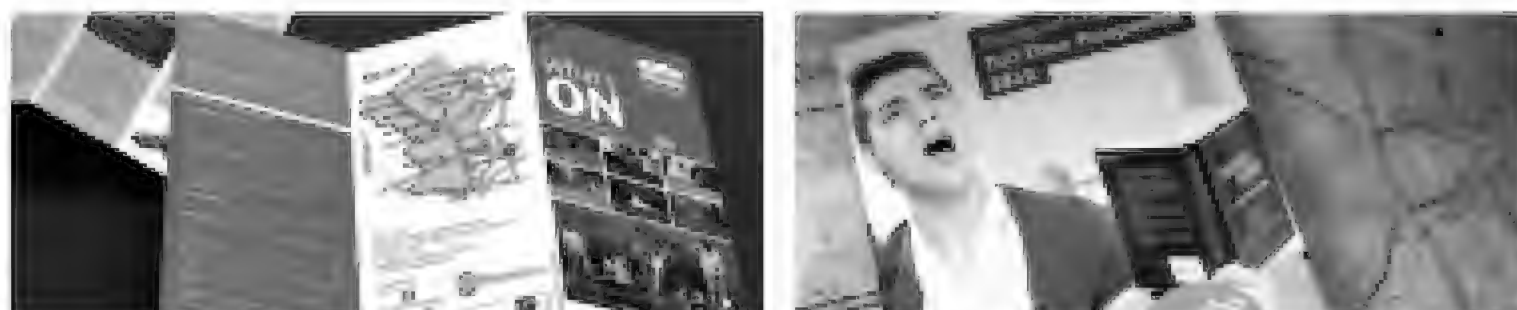
The longevity record for this species is: 9 years 6 months 25 days set in 2010.

GJ54711	Nestling	08-06-2008	near The Laurels Farm, Terrington St Clement: 52°47'N 0°19'E (Norfolk)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	11-10-2008	Fairburn Ings: 53°44'N 1°20'W (West Yorkshire) 153km NW oy 4m 3d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03-03-2009	Fairburn Ings: 53°44'N 1°20'W (West Yorkshire) 153km NW oy 8m 23d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27-04-2009	Fairburn Ings: 53°44'N 1°20'W (West Yorkshire) 153km NW oy 10m 19d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12-06-2009	Fairburn Ings: 53°44'N 1°20'W (West Yorkshire) 153km NW 1y om 4d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-09-2009	Alkborough Flats: 53°42'N 0°40'W (Humberside) 122km NNW 1y 2m 30d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-02-2010	Fairburn Ings: 53°44'N 1°20'W (West Yorkshire) 153km NW 1y 8m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18-07-2010	Potteric Carr Nature Reserve: 53°29'N 1°7'W (South Yorkshire) 124km NW 2y 1m 10d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16-09-2010	Alkborough Flats: 53°42'N 0°40'W (Humberside) 122km NNW 2y 3m 8d

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Grey Heron

The longevity record for this species is: 23 years 9 months 2 days set in 2003.

1299370	Nestling	06-05-2008	Cleveland Farm: 51°39'N 1°54'W (Wiltshire)
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	30-03-2009	Hertford Chase, Colton, Leeds: 53°47'N 1°27'W (West Yorkshire) 239km N oy 10m 24d
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	06-07-2009	Skelton Lake, Rothwell, Leeds: 53°46'N 1°27'W (West Yorkshire) 238km N 1y 2m 0d

Red Kite

The longevity record for this species is: 20 years 1 month 15 days set in 2005.

GC11841	Nestling	01-07-2009	Site Confidential, near Ponterwyd: 52°24'N 3°51'W (Dyfed)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	19-07-2010	Micklethwaite, Bingley: 53°52'N 1°52'W (West Yorkshire) 210km NE 1y 0m 18d

Peregrine

The longevity record for this species is: 17 years 2 months 1 day set in 2001.

GC47806	Nestling Female	06-06-2007	Castle Dean Rocks: 53°38'N 2°0'W (West Yorkshire)
	Long dead	12-10-2010	Calf of Man: 54°3'N 4°49'W (Isle of Man) 191km WNW 3y 4m 6d
GC12702	Nestling	25-05-2006	Site Confidential, near Ruabon: 52°58'N 3°2'W (Clwyd)
	Long dead (wire or netting)	29-04-2010	Collingham, near Leeds: 53°54'N 1°25'W (West Yorkshire) 150km NE 3y 11m 4d

Black-headed Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 29 years 3 months 12 days.

EX10647	Nestling	28-06-2009	Cleveland Farm: 51°39'N 1°55'W (Wiltshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14-03-2010	Redcar Tarn: 53°52'N 1°57'W (West Yorkshire) 247km N oy 8m 14d
NOS 6108127	Nestling	12-06-2008	Bekkeskjaeret, Sande: 59°32'N 10°17'E (Vestfold) Norway
	Freshly dead	26-12-2010	Swillington: 53°45'N 1°25'W (West Yorkshire) 959km SW 2y 6m 14d
SVS 6423344	Nestling	11-06-2007	Venan, Rynningeviken: 59°17'N 15°15'E (Orebro) Sweden
	Freshly dead	28-02-2010	Newmillerdam, Wakefield: 53°38'N 1°30'W (West Yorkshire) 1,203km WSW 2y 8m 17d

Lesser Black-backed Gull

The longevity record for this species is: 34 years 10 months 27 days set in 2000.

GA18184	Nestling	10-07-1998	Tarnbrook Fell, Bowland, Abbeystead, near Lancaster: 54°1'N 2°35'W (Lancashire)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	28-02-2002	Bahia de Santander: 43°27'N 3°46'W (Santander) Spain 1,177km S 3y 7m 18d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	07-11-2004	Santander: 43°26'N 3°45'W (Santander) Spain 1,179km S 6y 3m 28d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-02-2007	Bahia de Santander: 43°27'N 3°46'W (Santander) Spain 1,178km S 8y 7m 9d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05-03-2010	la Seguniere: 47°6'N 0°58'W (Maine-et-Loire) France 777km S 11y 7m 23d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07-08-2010	Redcar Tarn, Keighley: 53°52'N 1°57'W (West Yorkshire) 45km ESE 12y 0m 28d
GN86230	First-year	08-07-2007	South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness: 54°3'N 3°12'W (Cumbria)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	15-05-2009	Grundon, near Stoke Orchard: 51°57'N 2°7'W (Gloucestershire) 245km SSE 1y 10m 7d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	25-07-2010	Thornton Moor Reservoir: 53°47'N 1°55'W (West Yorkshire) 90km ESE 3y 0m 17d

Barn Owl

The longevity record for this species is: 14 years 7 months 22 days set in 2007.

GR12014	Nestling	15-06-2010	Terrington Marsh: 52°48'N 0°20'E (Norfolk)
	Freshly dead	25-10-2010	South Elmsall: 53°35'N 1°17'W (West Yorkshire) 139km NW oy 4m 10d

Sand Martin

The longevity record for this species is: 7 years 11 months 12 days set in 1989.

X908594	First-year Female	27-08-2009	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	16-06-2010	Mid Lairgs, Daviot: 57°24'N 4°9'W (Highland Region) 454km NNW oy 9m 20d

Swallow

The longevity record for this species is: 11 years 1 month 11 days set in 1936.

X711935	Nestling	03-09-2009	Dunkeswick Lodge, Leeds: 53°56'N 1°34'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	29-11-2009	Mafundzalo Ranch, Kabwe: 14°18'S 28°27'E Zambia 8,113km SSE oy 2m 26d

Waxwing

The longevity record for this species is: 2 years 11 months 24 days set in 1977.

NW49395	First-year Female	04-11-2010	Duthie Park, Aberdeen: 57°7'N 2°7'W (Grampian Region)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	19-12-2010	Dalton, near Huddersfield: 53°38'N 1°45'W (West Yorkshire) 388km S oy 1m 15d

Sedge Warbler

The longevity record for this species is: 8 years 8 months 8 days set in 2001.

X956789	First-year	23-07-2010	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	13-08-2010	Le Massereau, Frossay: 47°14'N 1°55'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 711km S oy 0m 21d

Reed Warbler

The longevity record for this species is: 12 years 11 months 21 days set in 2001.

X836842	Juvenile	08-08-2000	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	29-06-2010	near Red Row, East Chevington: 55°16'N 1°35'W (Northumberland) 184km N oy 10m 21d

Blackcap

The longevity record for this species is: 10 years 8 months 15 days set in 1988.

X190932	First-year Male	20-09-2000	Sandwich Bay Estate: 51°16'N 1°23'E (Kent)
	Freshly dead	25-04-2010	Lupset: 53°40'N 1°32'W (West Yorkshire) 332km NW oy 7m 5d

Whitethroat

The longevity record for this species is: 6 years 11 months 30 days set in 2009.

X956654	Juvenile	08-07-2010	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	22-08-2010	Marais de Tardingen, Wissant: 50°53'N 1°39'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 370km SE oy 1m 14d

Chaffinch

The longevity record for this species is: 11 years 7 months 21 days set in 1990.

X853493	Full-grown Female	20-03-2010	near Acomb: 54°59'N 2°7'W (Northumberland)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	27-11-2010	Otley: 53°53'N 1°43'W (West Yorkshire) 125km S oy 8m 7d

Twite

The longevity record for this species is: 5 years 7 months 3 days. R687019 represents a new longevity record.

R687019	Nestling	07-06-2004	near Midgeley: 53°45'N 1°58'W (West Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	03-08-2004	Cant Clough Reservoir, Hurstwood, Burnley: 53°46'N 2°10'W (Lancashire) 14km W oy 1m 27d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10-01-2010	Pegwell Bay: 51°18'N 1°21'E (Kent) 353km SE 5y 7m 3d

Common Redpoll

The longevity record for this species is: 2 years 5 months 26 days set in 1962.

NOS 9H84634	First-year	06-08-2010	Hjerkinn, Dovre: 62°13'N 9°32'E (Opland) Norway
	Caught by ringer	15-11-2010	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire) 1,152km SW oy 3m 9d

Lesser Redpoll

The longevity record for this species is: 6 years 26 days set in 1997.

X875622	First-year Female	16-03-2010	Wicken Fen: 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	25-10-2010	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield: 53°37'N 1°26'W (West Yorkshire) 186km NW oy 7m 9d

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October • Pallas's Leaf Warbler (Sawney's Pond) • E. L. ...

Gallery



January • Shag (Scarborough) • Steve Race



February • Bittern (Potteric Carr) • Rob Mokryj



February • Black-throated Thrush (Newholm, near Whitby) ► Glyn Sellors



February • White-fronted Geese (Filey) ► Dave Mansell



February • Red Kite (Harewood) ► Rob Mokryj



February • Tundra Bean Geese and Pink-footed Goose (Cayton Carr) ▶ Dave Mansell



February • Waxwing (Filey) ▶ Dave Mansell



February • Fieldfare (Balby) ▶ Rob Mokryj



March • Kittiwake (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Steve Race



April • Grasshopper Warbler (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Steve Race



May • Red Grouse (Bransdale) ▶ Steve Race



May • Hawfinch (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Steve Race



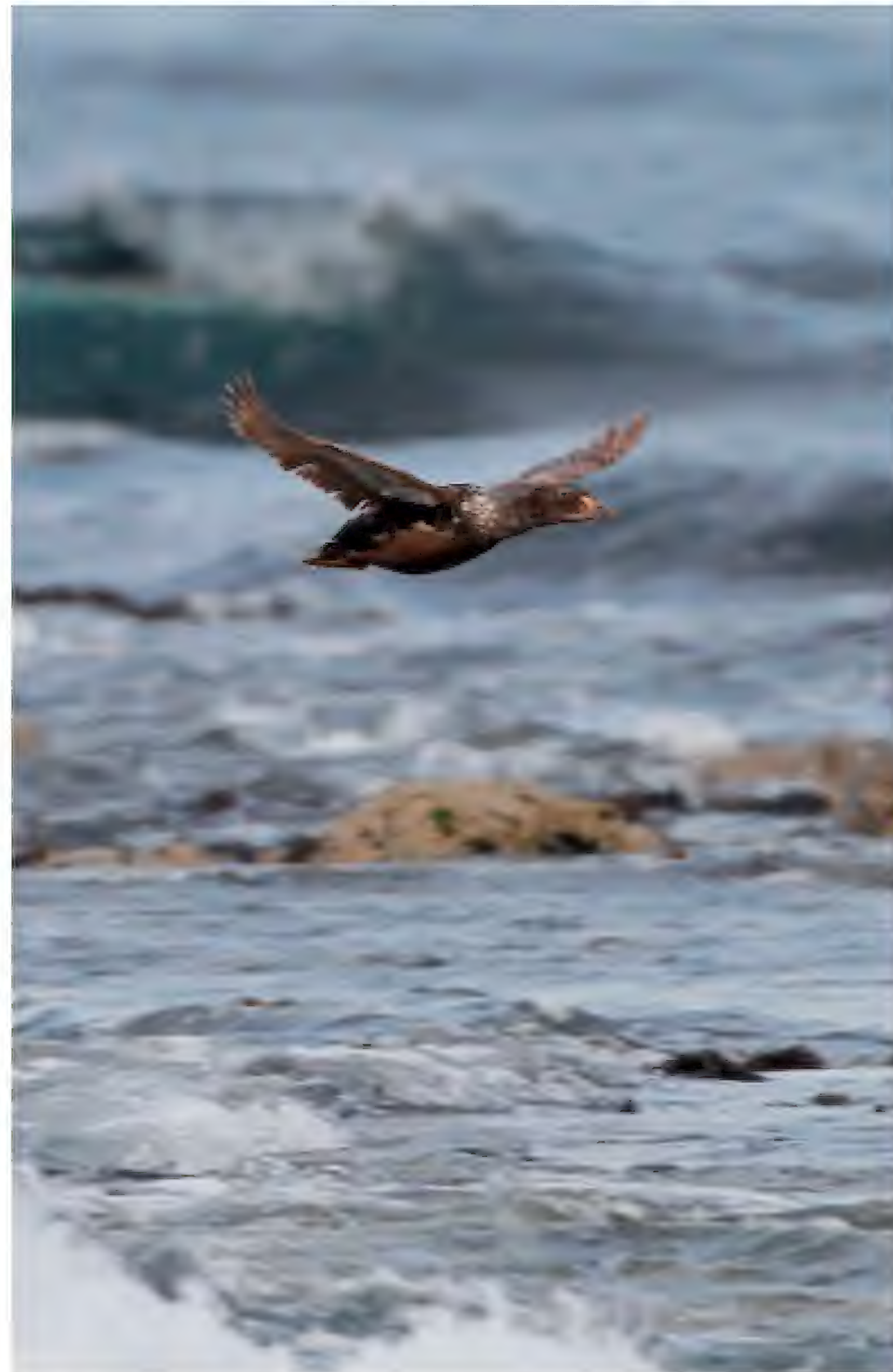
June • Red-backed Shrike (Willerby) ▶ Dave Mansell



June • Long-tailed Tits (Fairburn Ings) ▶ Gary Shilton



June • Whitethroat (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Steve Race



July • King Eider (Filey) ▶ Dave Mansell



August • White-winged Black Tern (Hornsea Mere) ▶ Mike Ashforth



August • Knot (Filey) ▶ Glyn Sellors



September • Dotterel (Buckton) ▶ Mark Thomas



September • Brown Flycatcher (Buckton) ▶ Dave mansell



September • Western Bonelli's Warbler (Bempton Cliffs) ▶ Dave Mansell



September • Icterine Warbler (Scarborough) ▶ Dave Mansell



October • Dusky Warbler (Scarborough) ▶ Dave Mansell



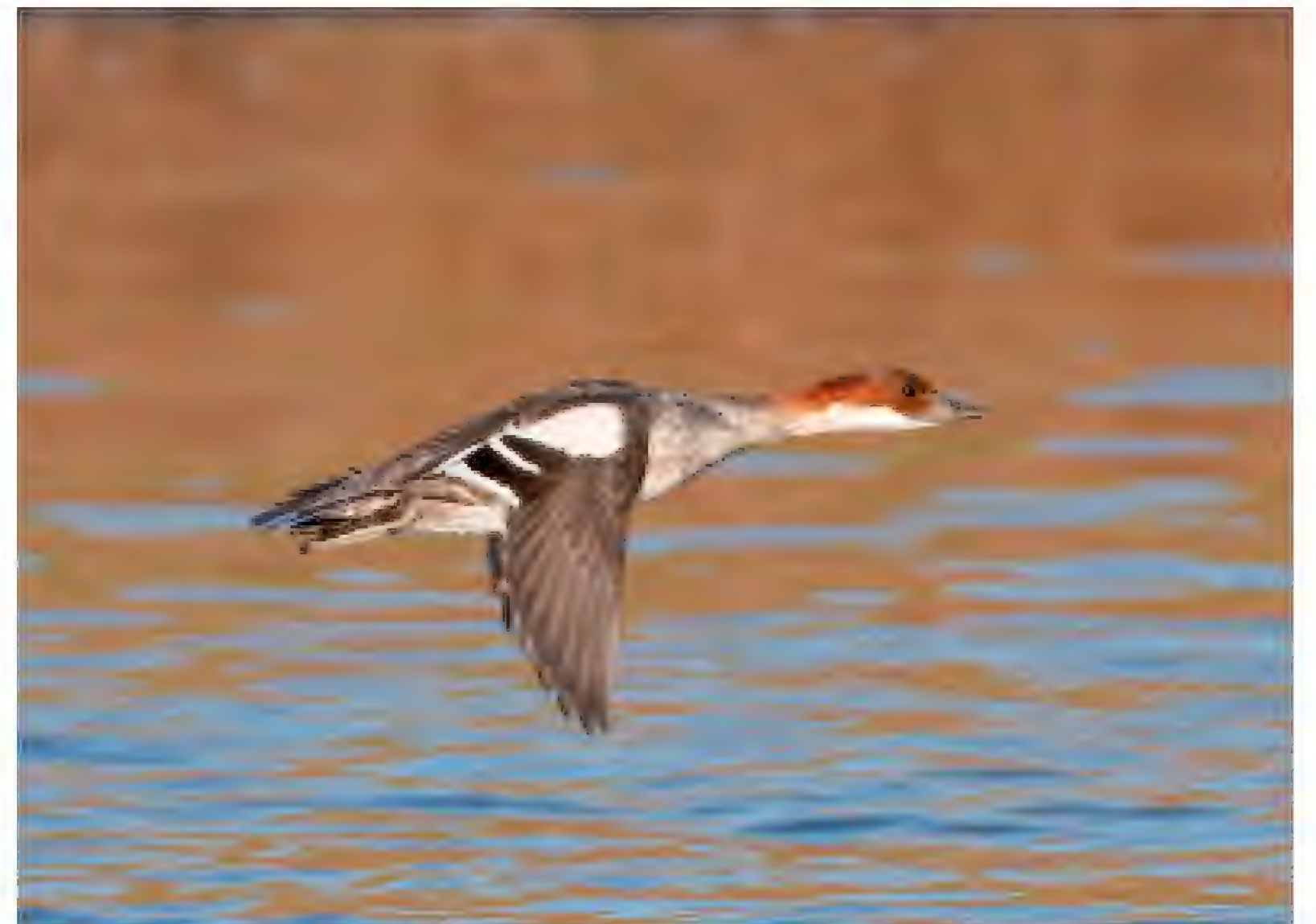
October • Rough-legged Buzzard (Buckton) ▶ Mark Thomas



October • Slavonian Grebe (Lakeside) ▶ Jim Welford



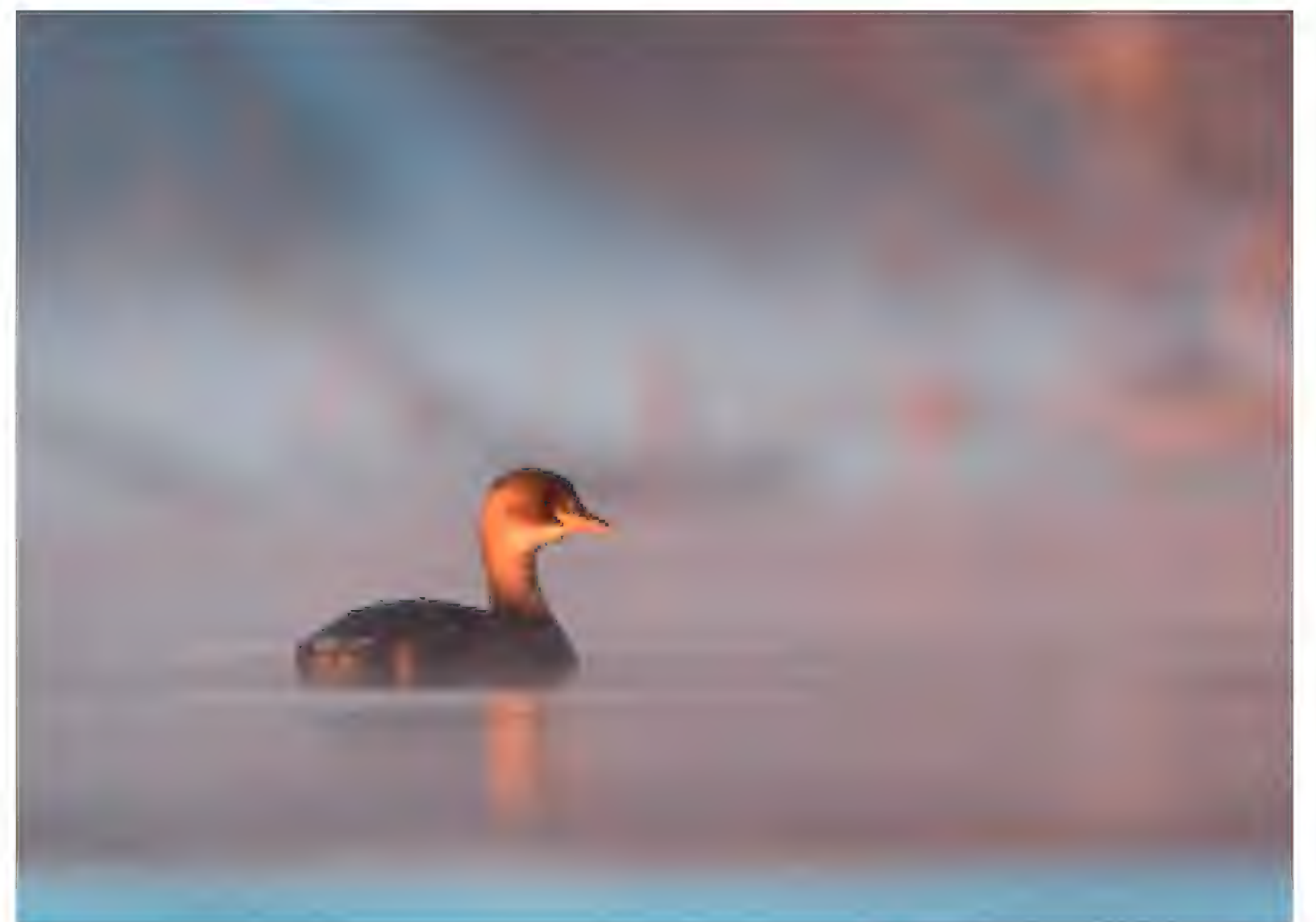
October • Osprey (York) ▶ Dave Mansell



November • Smew (Seamer Tip Pools) ▶ Dave Mansell



November • Grey Phalarope (Cononley) ▶ Jim Welford



December • Little Grebe (Horbury) ▶ Jim Welford



December • Nuthatches (Bolton Abbey) ▶ Jim Welford

List of contributors



The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or have contributed to a local report used to compile the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

A

C Abbott
DR Abbott
C Abell
C Acomb
D Adams (DAd)
R Adams
P Adams
NW Addey (NWA)
R Ahmed (RA)
B Akam
C&J Alder
G Alderson
PJ Alker
I Allard
J Allen
D Allen (DA)
S Allen
R Allinson
AM Allport (AMA)
D&J Alred
P Alvey
R Alvey
A Amery (AA)
P Anderson
CE Andrassy
RH Appleby
I Appleton
J Appleyard (JAp)
MR Archer
A Archer
JS Armitage
B Armitage (BA)
J Armstrong
R Arundale
M Ashforth (MA)
D Ashton
S Ashton
J Ashton–Booth
IA Ashworth

MRK Askew (MRKA) RJ Askwith (RJA)

B Aspin
R Atkin
J Atkins
P Atkins
JE Atkinson
M Atkinson
S&J Auker
L Aukland
N Aukland
I Austin

B

P Bagguley
A Bailey (ABa)
B Bailey
D Bailey
D Bainbridge
RA Baines (RAB)
A Baker
RS Baker
DJ Bamforth (DJBa)
GR Bannister
K Bannister
C Barber
L&M Bardwell (L&MB)
M Barfoot
DC Barker (DCB)
J Barker (JB)
D Barker
C Barker
K Barnard
SJ Barnes
M Barnett (MB)
P Barraclough
P Barrett
H Barrett
S Barton

S&Y Barwick C Barwick (CBa) JB Baxter JM Bayldon (JMB) R Bays J Beannan B&JA Beaumont (B&JAB)

P&WA Beaumont
DV Beeken
D Beevers
M Bell
D Bell
C Bell
PT Bell
SC Bell
R Beltoul
DJ Bennett
GR Bennett (GRB)
A&D Benson
W Benson
J Berril (JBe)
P Berriman
J Berry
J Bethel

I Beveridge (IB)
K Bewton
C Bielby (CBi)
K Bilton
I Bimrose (IBi)
C Birch
J Birch
SM Bird
E Birnie
P Bishop
B Blackburn
JM Blackburn
L Blackett
D&M Blackmore
S Blacksmith
CJ Blakeley
M Bland (MBI)

MA Blick (MAB) M Bloomfield RJ Boland JH Bolton P Bolton I Bond P Bone S Bone R Boon

AJ Booth (AJB) S Booth G Booth A Bostock D Bosworth K Botham AJ Botterill WI Boustead (WIB)

D Bowes
K Bower
N&A Bowland
PK Bowman
RM Box
M Boyd
K Boyer
DP Boyle
D Brabbs
PN Bradbury
A Bradford
CG Bradshaw (CGB)
C&L Braham (C&LB)
D Branch
SJ Branch
P Bray
D Brear
M Brennan
S Brennan
M Brew (MBre)
DW Brierley
G Briggs
D Briggs
P Briglin
DJ Britton (DJB)
R Broch
C Brogdale
M Brook
GL Brook
J Brook
D Brooks
J Broster
P Brothers
M Brown

S Brown (SB) A Brown C Brown JDH Brown MF Brown PL Brown R Brown L Bruce P Brunt D&S Bryan (D&SB)

SJ Buckle
K Bull
K Bullimore
A Bunting
T Burkitt
J Burnham
N Burnham
A Burns
P&J Burns
D&H Burrow
N Burt (NB)
J Burton
PA Burton
RJ Butcher (RJB)
A&P Butler
N Butler
S Butler
M Butt
C Butterfield
D Butterfield
R Butterworth
J Buxton
DM Bye
RJ Bye
D Bywater (DBy)

C

MP Calvert
R Campbell
JD Cant
D Cappleman (DC)
PJ Carlton (PJC)
M Carr
G Carr (GC)
J Carr
M Carr
MJ Carroll
S Carter
N Carter (NC)

P Casey (PCa) BJK Caswell GP Catley (GPC) A Cawthrow B Chambers P Chambers M Chapman RE Chapman S Chappell R Charles D Charlton R Charman J Charnock S&H Chippendale J Clapham R Clark P Clark C&F Clark J Clarke

R Clarke (RC)
C Clarkson (CC)
K Clarkson (KC)
M Clay
B Clegg
J Clegg (JCI)
W Clements
M&J Clerk
EW Clubley
M Cobley
S Cochrane (SC)
B Cockerill
A Cockroft
S Coghlan
M Cole (MCol)
JT Collett
P Collins (PCo)
T Collins
M Collins
T Collinson
M Collinson
R Collis
M Constantine
P&L Cook
E Cook
H Cook (HC)
M Cook
S Cook
T&J Cook
NM Cooke
S Cooke
M Cooper

A Cooper
J Cooper (JC)
J Cope
TI Corbett (TIC)
M&J Corcoran
M Corner (MCor)
L Corrall
G Costello
C Coupland
S Coupland
IR Court (IRC)
C&R Court
M Coverdale
D Cowan
E Cowan
V Cowell
R Cowen
T Cowley
M Cowton
K Cowton
J Cox (JCo)
M Cox
A Cox
A Coxon
A Cracroft
T Crampton
RD Crawford
K&S Crean
AJ Crease
C Crebbin
HM Creber (HMC)
A Credland
B Credland
C Critchley
P Croft
A Crossley
R Crossley
J Crowther
PA Crowther
RJ Croxton
A Crouch
A Cruikshanks
J Crussell
A Crystal
S Cummings
M Cunningham (MCu)
P Cunningham (PC)
A Curran
PJ Curran
M Curtis
WF Curtis

D

JE Dale
JM Dale
R Dale
J Dallas
P Daltry
BF Damper
S Davenport
J&TG Davies (J&TGD)
R Davies
SJ Davies
S Davies
M Dawson
N Dawson
D Dawson (DD)
MH Dawtrey
NC Dawtrey (NCD)
PL Dawtrey
A Day
GA Dayes (GAD)
A Deerman
LJ Degnan (LJD)
A Deighton
P Delaloye
JC Denham
T Denney
G Dennison
S Denny (SD)
ML Denton
AB Devitt
B Devitt
L Dewdney
KE Dickinson
J Dillon
AS Disley (ASD)
CR Dixon
J&J Dixon
T Dixon (TDi)
GE Dobbs (GED)
JP Dobinson
C Dodsworth (CD)
P Doherty
T Dolan (TD)
M Dough
M Douglas
P Dove (PDo)
H Doveston
M Doveston
S Downing
B Downing

C Doyle
F Drake
SE Drake
R Drew
P Dronfield
PG Drury
M Duckham (MD)
T Duckworth
JR Duffie
Mrs IM Duffy
S Duke
C Dunn
PJ Dunn
R Dunn (RDu)
A Dunne
K Duttridge
K Dutton (KDu)
D Dutton
C Dye
J Dye

E

RA Eades
P Eastwood
G Edge
G Edmonds
R Edwards
S Edwards
WD Elders
S Ellement
B Ellerington (BEI)
SC Elliot
T Elliott
G Ellis
Y Elvin
B Emson (BE)
M Evans
R Evison
S Exley (SE)

F

G Facer
JV Fairbrother
C Fairchild
M Fanshawe
S Farish
N Fearnley

M&A Fearon
G Featherstone
T Feltham (TF)
B Fendley
A Ferguson
H&J Ferraby
K Fisher
M Fishpool
CH Fletcher
P Fletcher
J Flood
M Flowers
CH Flynn
B Ford
A Ford (AF)
D Ford
I Forrest
W Forrest
P Forster
G&B Forsyth
IJ Foster
P&K Foston
K Foundation (KF)
CAP Fowles
R Fowling
P Fox
M Francis (MF)
T Francis
D Fraser
PR French
J Frost
R Fuller
S Furber (SF)
J Furnell

G

R&P Gale
J Gallagher
P Gammage
JLC Gandy
J Garbutt
C Garner
M Garner (MG)
MGH Garnett
J Gatenby
C Gaughan (CG)
AJ Gear
I Geaves
N Genn

S Gennard
S Gibbon
AJ Gibson (AJG)
S Gibson
A Gilbert
P Giles
LR Gill
M Gill
A Gill
P Gill
L Gillard (LG)
C Gillings
D Gilroy
C&S Ginger
I Graves
J Glendenning
D Goate
C Gomersall
JE Goode
J Goodhart
D Goodwin
S Goodwin
PD Goriup
C Gorman
AG Gough
KR Gould (KRG)
A Grace
C Graham
P Graham
R Graham
S Graham
G Grainger
A Grainger
Mrs RA Grainger
J Gramauskas
A Gramshaw
G Granger
V Grantham
M Grassby
S Gray
J Grayson
P Grba
PK Greaves
E Green (EG)
G Green
GR Green
S Green
SL Green (SLG)
W Green
A Greenwood
I Greenwood

A Gregory
P Grice
J Grieveson
PR Griffin
B Griffith
G Griffith
S Griffiths (SG)
R Grillo
J&P Grimmett
M Grindle
J Grist (JG)
T Guest
T Guild
S Guymer
S Gwilliam (SGw)

H

AE Hague
JB Hague
G Haigh
T Halliday
JC Halliday
B Halling
J Hamilton (JHam)
R Hampshire
R Hampson
AM Hanby (AMH)
B Hannah
CP Hansell
B Hanson
RE Harbird
D Hardacre
R Hardy
D&K Hargreave
I Hargreaves
M&P Hargreaves (M&PH)
P Hargreaves
R Hargreaves
RD Harman
C Harris (CHa)
R Harris
WD Harris
J Harrison
C Harrison
D Harrison
M Harrop
R&C Hart
N Hart
T&G Hartley

J Harwood (JH)
N&P Hawkes
M Hayes
R Haywood
J Haywood
F Healey
W Healey
EJ Hediger (EJH)
A Heeley
DG Hemingway
M Hemingway
M Henshaw
D Heptinstall
N Heptinstall
S Hepton
M Heron
W Hesketh
J Hesselewood
I Hey (IH)
J Hewitt (JHe)
S Hey
K Heywood
R Hibbert
Jason Higgins
John Higgins
P Higgins
C Higson (CHi)
B Hill
RD Hill (RDH)
K Hillery
J Hinchliffe
P Hindess
S Hiner
P Hinks
SJ Hinley
JP Hirschfield
AD Hirst
R Hirst
JG Hitchcock
S Hitchen
I Hitchman
M Hobbs
TL Hobson
DG Hobson (DGH)
R Hobson
MG Hodges
A Hodgkinson
J Hodson
J Hogg
J Holliday (JHol)
D Holloway

N Holmes
BM Holmes
G Holmes (GH)
A Hood (AHo)
AI Hood (AIH)
P Hopkins
CA Hopper
RN Hopper
R Hopson (RH)
J Horbury
P Hornby
J Hornbuckle (JHor)
C Horne
K Horne
S Horner (SHo)
F&C Horner
T&V Horsfall
C Horton
J Horton (JHo)
GM Horwood
N Houldershaw
T Houseman
I Howard
F Howell
D&R Howson
B Hoyle
T Hubball
S Hull (SHu)
J Hume
N Hunt
DA Hunter
DI Hunton (DIH)
B Huntington (BHU)
C Hurst
D Hursthouse
AA Hutt (AAH)
A Huyton

I

G Icelton
D Ingram
F&S Ipson
DD Ireland
JD Ireland
JR Irving
PV Irving (PVI)
W Irving (WI)
T Isherwood (TI)
D&V Ives

J Ives
L Ives
PW Izzard

J

AS Jack (ASJ)
G Jackson
K Jackson
M Jackson
J Jackson
S Jackson
N Jackson
R Jacques
J James
P James
ET James
M Jeeves (MJ)
J Jenkins
S Jenkins
R Jennings (RJ)
G Jennison (GJe)
C Jepson–Brown
N Jessop
H Jevons
L Jobson
D Johnson
CG Johnson
S Johnson
AF Johnson
C Johnson
S Johnson
SW Johnson
J Johnson
L Johnson (LJ)
S Johnstone (SJ)
F Jones
NA Jones
C Jones
AP Josephs
A Jowett (AJ)
M Joyce
G Joynt

K

Z Karpowicz
R Kay
G Kaye

CM Keighley
SD Keightley
Mr&Mrs A Kelly
T Kemp
I Kendall (IK)
F Kenington
JS Kenyon
A Kershaw
G Kershaw
N Kerwin
T Kettle
G Kidd
D&H Kidman
M Killeen (MK)
CJ King (CJK)
PC King
L King
A King
A Kinghorn
AMG Kinnear
J Kinnerman
P Kirk
S Knell
R Knock
T&A Knowles
A Kraus (AK)

L

T Lally
P Lambert
L Lancaster
J Lane
MR Langston (MRL)
P Larner
J Laskey
PA Lassey (PAL)
J Law (JL)
M&M Lawrence
D Lawrence
I Lawson
J Lawton (JLa)
G Lax
J Laycock
SR Laycock
GPK Leach
GY Leach
I Leach
R Leach
J Leadley

C Leonard
P Leonard
JB Leason
D&M Leather
G Lee
B Leecy
G Leeming
P Leeming
B Leflay
RE Leighton (REL)
A Leonard
P Leonard
K Lewis
R Lewis
J Lidguard
G Light (GL)
C Lilley
SG Lilley
R Lilley
K Limb
P Limb
GM Lindley
L Linger
M Linnington
SM Lister
D Little
D Littleproud
R Lobley
M Local
D Lomas
D Lombard
S Lovric
D Lowe
RJ Lowe
MJ Lucas
J Lunn
R Lyon (RL)
K Lyon

M

T Mabbett
C Macintosh
M Maher
M Mail
N Major
A Malley (AMaI)
NW Mallinson
D Mansell (DM)
D Marchant

JL Marriott
R&S Marriott
T Marron
I Marshall
A Marshall (AM)
D Marshall
I Marshall
J&P Martin
T Martin
Paul Martin (PMa)
P Martin
T Martin
J Martin
JI Martin
D Mason
A Mason
JC Mason
I Massey
JR Mather
D McAleavy
K McAlpine
RT McAndrew
J McClean
I McDonald
J McEachen
T McEvoy (TMc)
P McGenity
CR McKay
R McKellican
T McKinney (TMcK)
AG McLee
J McLoughlin
M McNaghten (MMc)
C Measures
GN Megson (GNM)
P Mella
T Melling
C Mellor
D Mellor
P Meredith (PM)
S Meredith (SMe)
B Merryweather
MG Metcalfe
J Middleton (JM)
P Middleton (PMi)
DR Middleton
H Middleton
L Middleton
L Midgley
G Miller
ADF Milne

H Mitchell
R Mitchell
S Mitchie
R Moat
FX Moffatt (FXM)
K Moir (KM)
DA Money (DAM)
JR Money
M Moore
N Moore
N Moran
B Morfitt
A Morgan
J Morgan
B Morland (BM)
I Morley
PR Morris (PRM)
M Morrison
D&P Moss
PL Mountain
D Muir
T Mulsom
P Murphy
C Murphy
SG Murphy
A Murray
F Murray
M Muxlow
P Myers
GW Myers

N

J Nangle
B Napierski (BN)
P Nash
S Nash
MG Neal
P Nellist
DJ Nelson
JM Newman
M Newsome
P Newton
I Nicholson
C Nickerson
J Nobel
SC Norman (SCN)
KA Norrie (KAN)
A Norris
J Northage

S Norton
A Nunn
A Nuthall

O

R O'Connor
J O'Malley (JOM)
A O'Neill
T O'Neill
D Oakey-Martin (DO-M)
MA Oates
D Ogden
H Old
P Oldham
J Olley
A&B Osbourne
J Overfield
H Owen
DM Owen
J Owen
M Oxslade (MO)

P

A Padmore
D Page (DP)
C&J Palfree
JK Palliser
D Parker
R Parker
E&N Parker (E&NP)
EC Parker (ECP)
S Parkes
PD&JB Parkin
J Parkin
D&B Parkin
B Parkinson
J Parkinson
RT Parrish
V Parslow (VP)
N Parton
S Pashby
P Patrick
A Payne
J Payne
M Payne
DM Pearce
M Pearey (MP)
JM Pearson (JMP)

M Pearson
N Pearson
M Peck
J Peckover
S Peel
D Peel
K Pendlebury (KP)
C Pendlebury
DH Pennington (DHP)
B Pepper
DJ Perray
M Perry
J Pickering
R Pickering
K Pickering
D Pickering
N Pickering (NP)
G Picton (GP)
T Piggott
MJ Pilsworth (MJP)
JM Pinder (JMP)
B Pinning
J Plant
J Platt
R Platts
D Plummer
D&S Pogson (D&SP)
J Poland
JA Pollintine
N Pollitt
J Pomroy (JP)
P Popely
N&S Popham
A Popplewell
R Porter
A Porter
JD Postlethwaite
C Pottle
D Poyser
J Prentice
J Preshaw
DJ Prest (DJP)
NA Preston (NAP)
J Price
L Pridmore
MV Priestley
WH Priestley
RH Proctor
D Proctor (DPr)
N Puckrin
P Purvis

Q

H Quaterman
M Quigley
P Quin
M Quinlan

R

S Rabie
S Race
S Radcliffe
CS Ralston (CSR)
A Raunds
J Read
J Redman
P Reed (PR)
MN Reeder (MNR)
J Reeman
J Regan
SC Renouf
P Rex
A Rhodes
B Richards (BR)
D Richardson (DR)
W Richardson
G Rickers (GR)
W Rich
P Rigg
P Riley
M Riley
A Roadhouse (AR)
K Robbins
SJ Robbins
F Roberts
I Roberts
A Robertshaw (ARo)
A Robin
N Robinson
A Robinson
M Robinson (MRo)
M&P Robinson
CC Robinson (CCR)
I Robinson
J Robinson (JRo)
L Robinson
P Robson
J Robson
K Robson
D Roddis

P Roe
S Roebuck
T Rogers
SM Root
K Rotherham
M Rotherham
S Routledge
MD Rowbottom
PC Roworth (PCR)
S Roxby
G Royston
R&P Rumbold
M Rushton
M Russell
G Russell
K Russell
T Ryan
K Ryan

S

J Sadler
J Sanderson (JS)
L Sands
JM Saville
C Sawbridge
M Saxelby
R Scally (RScA)
I Scammin (ISc)
DJ Scanlan
E Scarfe
P Scarfe
C Scholefield
LJ Scott
I Scott
PL Scott
R Scott
RJ Scott (RJS)
B Scott
T Scott (TS)
M Scrimshaw
R Scullion
P Seaman
A Sears
R Sears
JE Seeviour
G Sellors
A Senior
NP Senior (NPS)
P Senior

C Severs
K Shackleton
P Shakeshaft
M Sharp
K Sharp
C Sharp
JL Sharp
K&M Sharpe (K&MS)
M&C Sharpe
GJ Sharples
M&G Shaw
J Shaw
R Shaw
G Shentall
I Shentall
A Shepherd
M Shepherd
M Sherwin
C&D Shields
G Shilton
PC Short (PCS)
MN Sidwell (MNS)
T Silvester
G Silver
A Simcock
P Simcock
DJ Simpson
B Simpson
DW Simpson
SP Singleton
T Sinnott
I Skayman
GM&N Slack
RS Slack (RSS)
AD Slade
P Slade
C Slator
J Sloan
MA Small
M Smethurst
DM Smith
GM Smith
PJW Smith
JB Smith
JN Smith
R Smith
I Smith (IS)
J Smith
K Smith
M Smith
P Smith (PS)

B Smith
D Smith
JK Smith
N Smith (NSm)
B Smithson
BK Smithson
JR Smithson (JRS)
M Smithson
R Smithson
A Snape
AJ Snowden
J Snowdon
LJ Sollitt
L Solo
J&A Soper
T Spall (TSp)
GA Speck
B Speed
GJ Speight (GJS)
B Spence
BR Spence (BRS)
JA Spencer (JAS)
D Spencer
A Spensley
S Spick
RJ Sprakes
C Squires
CG Stack
D Stables
DJ Standring (DJSt)
D Starkey
M Stead
L Stead
B Steel
G Steele (GSt)
P Stephenson
BA Stephenson
CR Stephenson
B Stephenson (BS)
D Stephenson
G Stephenson
R Stephenson
N Stewart
G Stoker
M Stone
CM&F Stones
A Stonier (AS)
AJ Stoyle (AJS)
MF Stoyle
MG Stoyle
S St Pierre

CC Straw (CCS)
C Street
A Summersgill
D Summers–Smith
P Sung
P Sutcliffe
J Sutcliffe
DJ Sutcliffe (DJSu)
C Sutcliffe
RJ Swales (RJS)
S Swales
P Swallow
D&E Swift
D Sykes
J Sykes

T

D Tattersley (DT)
MK Taunton
A&P Taylor (A&PT)
P Taylor
D Taylor
M Taylor
N Taylor
GC Taylor
J Taylor
R Taylor (RT)
B Taylor
L Taylor (LT)
RC Taylor
C Teal
CC Thomas (CCT)
S Thomas
G Thomas
M Thomas (MT)
A Thompson
AP Thompson
JB Thompson
FJ Thompson
J Thompson (JTh)
B Thompson
I Thompson
MA Thompson
C Thomson (CT)
W Thorne
D Thornley
S Thornton
K Thorpe (KT)
P Thorpe

RT Thorpe
B Threlfall (BT)
D Thurlow (DTh)
D Tipping
D Tingle
D Tinker
C&P Tinson (C&PT)
RL Tite
G Todd
JR Todd
JW Todd
N Tonge
GL Tongue
ADW Tongue
JL Topham
J&F Topham (J&FT)
M Townsend
R&G Traves
IF&RV Traynor
PT Treloar (PTT)
A Tremethick
J Troughton
M Trowman
P Trueblood
M Tucker (MTu)
T Tudor
K Tupholme
S Tupholme
B&E Turnbull
JK Turnbull
P Turnbull
V Turner
S Turner
D Turner
D&B Turner
JM Turton (JMT)
G Tveit
R Twigg (RTw)
B&M Twist
C Tyler

U

JC Unwin
M Unwin
J Uttley

V

B Van der Ven
S Varrie
T Vaughan
K Venus
DJ Venus (DJV)
B Vickers
H Vilkaitis

W

DM Waddington (DMW)
M Waddilove
JR Waddilove
R Wade
S Wadsworth
G Wadsworth
JA Wagner
M Wainman
BP Wainwright
SD Waite (SDW)
T Wales
A Walker (AW)
J Walker
T Walker
B Walker
K Walker
ID Walker
M Walker
G Walsh
D Warburton (DWa)
L Ward
DAP Ward (DAPW)
J Ward (JW)
S Ward
B Ward
D Wardon
S Warford (SWa)
BP Warrington
J Warwick
SP Warwick
J Wasse (JWa)
D Watkins
GV Watola
I Watson
T Watson
R Watson
MD Watts
D Waudby (DW)

S Webb
I Webster
M Weir
J Welburn
P Welch
J Welford
R Wellburn
MC Wells
PS Wells
R Welton
T Weston
J Westmorland
L Westmorland
T Wheeler
AJ Wheeldon
P Wheway
E Whitaker
S White
HJ Whitehead (HJW)
A Whitehead (AWh)
A Whitehouse
IC Whitehouse (ICW)
N Whitehouse (NW)
E Whiting
A Whittaker
B Whittaker
K Whittaker
S Whittle
M Whitwam
M Wiggins
M Wightman
S Wignill (SW)
R Wilkinson
A&N Wilkinson
C Wilkinson (CW)
N Wilkinson
J Wilkinson
P Willey
M Williams
B Williams
DJ Williams (DJW)
M Williams
RDR Williams
R Willison (RWi)
A Willocks
PJ Willoughby
C Wilson
B Wilson
RA Wilson
R Wilson
S Wilson

T Wilson (TWi)
C Winn
J Wint
RG Winter
PQ Winter
I Witham
R Witty
S Witty
G Wolfenden
B Wood
D Wood
P Wood
J Wood
E Wood
DH Woodmansey
D Woodriff
D Woods
PB Wordsworth
SP Worwood (SPW)
R Woulds
J Wozencroft (JWo)
J Wragg
P Wragg (PWrr)
M Wright
T Wright
A Wrightson

Y

L Young
M Young
R Young
W Younis

Z

A Zabukas

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for most species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and other rare species dealt with by the Panel, including all the scarcer non-native breeding species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets *etc*. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories: **possible, probable, proved**.

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species for which information is required that are known to have bred, or attempted to breed, in recent years in Yorkshire are listed below.

Wigeon	Quail	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Pintail	Water Rail	Wood Lark
Garganey	Spotted Crake	Bluethroat
Shoveler	Corn Crake	Black Redstart
Common Pochard	Common Crane	Fieldfare
Black-necked Grebe	Avocet	Cetti's Warbler
Little Egret	Little Ringed Plover	Marsh Warbler
Bittern	Black-tailed Godwit	Firecrest
Honey-buzzard	Mediterranean Gull	Bearded Tit
Marsh Harrier	Little Gull	Willow Tit
Hen Harrier	Roseate Tern	Golden Oriole
Montagu's Harrier	Little Tern	Parrot Crossbill
Northern Goshawk	Eagle Owl	Hawfinch
Hobby	Long-eared Owl	Common Rosefinch
Peregrine Falcon	Short-eared Owl	

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: p102 – 103, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:
The Secretary, (Mark Holling)
Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick,
East Lothian. EH39 4QT
Phone: 01620 894037
e-mail: secretary@rbbp.org.uk
website: www.rbbp.org.uk

Detailed site specific information was received for the following locations, including local society/club reports where indicated below; readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant club recorder/report.

Barnsley Bird Report 2010	Old Moor 2010
Beal Carrs 2010	Potteric Carr 2010
Birdguides	Pugney's CP 2010
Birdtrack	Rotherham 2010
Blacktoft & Faxfleet 2010	RSPB
Bradford Bird Report 2010	Ryedale 2010
British Trust for Ornithology	Saltmarshe Delph 2010 Bird Report
Buckton 2010	Scarborough 2010 Bird Report
Cleveland 2010 Bird Report	Sheffield 2010 Bird Report
Edderthorpe Flash 2010 Bird Report	Skipwith Common 2010
Fairburn Ings 2010 Bird Report	Sorby Natural History Society 2010
Fera Sand Hutton 2010	Southfield & Went Ings 2010 Bird Report
Filey 2010 Bird Report	Spurn Wildlife 2010 Report
Flamborough 2010 Bird Report	Swillington Ings 2010 Bird Report
Fylingdales 2010 Bird Report	Thorne Moors 2010 Bird Report
Grimston 2010	Thorpe Marsh 2010
Halifax 2010 Bird Report	Upper Wharfedale 2010 Bird Report
Harrogate & District 2010 Bird Report	Winterset 2010
Huddersfield 2010	York 2010
Hull Valley Wildlife Group 2010	Yorkshire Birding 2010
Kelk 2010	Yorkshire Dales National Park
Leeds 2010 Bird Report	Yorkshire Red Kite Newsletter 2010
Malham Tarn 2010 Bird Report	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - Breeding Bird Survey
North Cave Wetlands 2010	Whitby 2010

We are as pleased to hear about the first Swallow as you are to see one.



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When a bird species is mentioned both the English and scientific name must be given, thereafter, the English name only. English names should follow that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (7th edition, 2006) updated by BOU 2006. Metric units must be used; dates should be in the form 1st January 2008. Numbers one to ten should be written in full, except when used with a measurement abbreviation or higher number, thus: five birds, but 5km and 5-11 birds. Numerals are used for all numbers greater than ten, written thus: 11, 110, 1100 and 11,000.

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